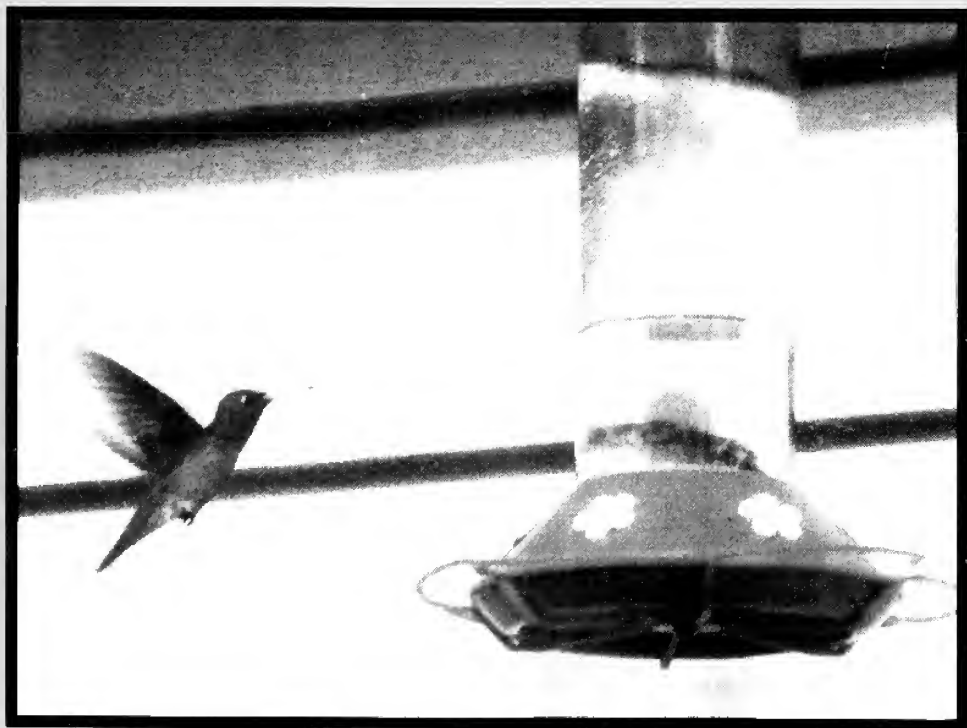


# IOWA BIRD LIFE

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Spring 1999 Volume 69 Number 2



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

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FRONT COVER: Amazilia Hummingbird, Des Moines, September 1998. Photo by Thomas H. Kent.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors, Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

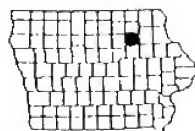
BACK COVER: Meeting Dates, Report Deadlines, Birdline, Materials Available.

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# BIRDING BREMER COUNTY'S CEDAR BEND PARK

JILL FELDKAMP

Come spring, when the snow melts, the migrants pass through, and the spring ephemerals are in bloom, travel to the middle of the northeast quadrant of the state and visit Bremer County's Cedar Bend Park and adjacent Cedar Bend Wildlife Area. What you might find includes every species of woodpecker found in Iowa, bluebirds and Bobolinks, vireos and Veerys, and 26 (and counting) species of warblers. To reach Cedar Bend, first drive to Waverly via Highway 218 or Highway 3. These two highways meet and combine on Waverly's main street, Bremer Avenue. The park is reached by traveling 2 1/2 miles north and east from Bremer Avenue on 12th Street Northwest. The entrance to the park is north off of 12th Street, just east of the railroad tracks. The park is open for hiking year round, but open to vehicles from mid-April to 30 October. The total acreage of the park is 198 acres, with 180 acres in the park and 118 acres in the wildlife area.



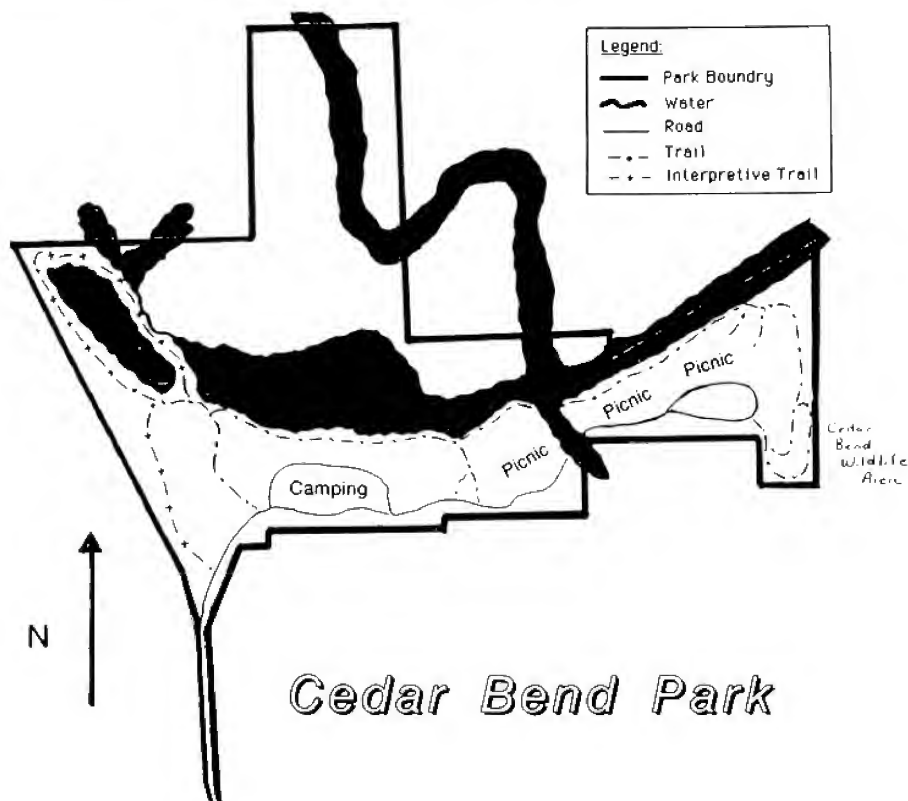
A variety of habitats including mature woodland riparian habitat, floodplains, and open grassy areas are found in the park, so the birdlife is varied. It is surrounded by croplands which, in the years they are left fallow, attract different species than found in the woods. Furthermore, the variety of wildflowers, especially in spring, is delightful, so that if the birding is slow, the flowers compensate.



*Figure 1. Woodland trail in Cedar Bend Park.*

Visitors can bird the park on a number of different routes depending on time and energy. If time is somewhat limited, drive into the park past the gate (or from midautumn to early spring, park at the gate and walk down the road) to the trailhead marked by an attractively carved wooden sign featuring a Wood Duck and Great Blue

Heron (both found in the park) that says "Interpretative Trail." You may park in the grassy area by this trailhead. From there follow the trail to the north. The trail will soon fork at a spot overlooking a pond. You may turn either to the right or left. The path makes a loop about the pond. For this guide, however, turn to the left. Here you will be hiking on a ridge above the pond until you reach the northern park boundary at which point the path bends to the right and drops down to the water. The water level of this pond varies considerably. When the Cedar River is high, it can rise to flood this whole area. When it is low, the pond is low and covered with algae. This variation in habitat keeps the birding interesting. Depending on the water levels, the pond may hold ducks, including Blue-winged Teal, Northern Shovelers, and Ring-necked Ducks. Great Blue, Green, and once Black-crowned Night-Herons, visit there. Spotted and Solitary sandpipers have also been seen here.



Many of the passerines may be expected on the trail through the woods. Both kinglets, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, and all of Iowa's usual thrushes are found there in season. On the high road above the pond, a friend's black lab once flushed a Wild Turkey that was on the ground near the path. This part of the path is not too far distant from cropland, so listen closely for Northern Bobwhites and pheasants calling. Along this section of the trail is a creosote-soaked bridge. The woodlands near this bridge are a good spot botanically and a profusion of wildflowers are present, changing weekly in spring: Dutchmen's breeches, Virginia bluebells, perfoliate bellwort, giant jack in the pulpit, and nodding trillium. Nearby the trailside is festooned with false and true Solomon's seal, blue cohosh, mayapples, wild

geraniums, wild ginger, bloodroot, spring beauties, and columbines, all in their due season. About midway along the path between the fork and the turn to the east, a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers were observed flying in and out of a tree cavity and most likely nested. The tree is located just to the west of the trail next to the railroad track which forms the park's western boundary. However, it was easy to see from within the park. Just before the path bends to the east, be sure to look closely for showy orchids.



*Figure 2. Bird study students from Wartburg College enjoying Cedar Bend Park.*

Once you have turned to the east, you are walking along the edge of the park's northern boundary. Just beyond the boundary is a fallow farm field. At least, it has been fallow during the nine years of research for this article. The field is a reliable place for Bobolinks and fortunately they can be seen, and certainly heard, from inside the park, so no trespassing is necessary. Since this part of the path is close to the water, it is a good place to look for Northern Waterthrushes. After a short distance, the trail begins to loop to the south around the pond. Now you will mostly likely find water on both sides of you, except in very dry years. The water to your left is an old oxbow of the Cedar River, whose current course bends from the north to the east--hence the park's name--not too far to the east of this spot. Last spring a pair of Eastern Bluebirds were found in a hole of a dead snag by this stretch of water. This whole circuitous route is a fine warbler watching locale, but this area is especially good. As already mentioned, 26 species have been seen in the park, including Cerulean, Prothonotary, Mourning, and Hooded warblers. When you next come to a fork in the path, stay to your right and climb the hill to get back to your starting point. If time is not a problem, go left and when you reach yet another fork, you may continue straight and follow a path along the main body of the Cedar River or walk to the right and arrive at the campground and the park's lone road. Once on the road, you may turn right and head back to your car.

The riverside path will extend your hike through the woods and offer time to look for swallows over the water. The road also parallels this path, some distance away, so you might chose to return to your car and drive to the far end of the park for more birdwatching. At the far east end of the park, the road has a turn-around loop. To the south of the road, and easily accessible from it, are spots to pull over and study the open fields. Some birds that have been found in adjacent fields include Lark Sparrow, Clay-colored Sparrow, Dickcissel, Le Conte's Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, and Sedge Wren. Near the turn-around is a butterfly garden, a small teaching amphitheater, and picnic shelter. The shelter is on a knoll. From the knoll is a scenic vista of the river that is a fairly good hawk watching spot. From this picnic area you make take any of several trails directly to the east. You will descend a hill and shortly reach a sign identifying the Cedar Bend Wildlife Area. The county has only recently made paths into this section of the park, and it appears to offer more good habitat in the shape of open grassy areas and some ponds. Another route to take from the turn-around is to follow a trail heading southeast along a fence covered with grapevines. This leads to a less-mature area with smaller trees and open spaces. From it more grasslands are visible.



*Figure 3. Overview of Cedar River at hawk watching site.*

If you can't come in spring, you may try camping here in the summer, where Scarlet Tanagers are summer residents. (Yes, they fly about and sing directly above the campsites.) Or perhaps autumn is your preference, when it is time to find Winter Wrens and Fox Sparrows. Or maybe you want to wait until winter and bring your cross country skis. That is the time of year when Rough-legged Hawks and Snow Geese have passed overhead. Regardless, birds are waiting to be found at every season of the year.

804 Tenth Avenue, NW, Waverly, IA 50677

# CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT 1998-99

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

The 1998-99 Iowa Christmas Bird Count included 39 counts (Figure 1, Table 1), unchanged from 1997-98. There was one new count this year (Jefferson County), and the return of Van Buren County after a brief absence. The Carroll and Ida county counts were not run this year. These 39 counts recorded a total of 138 species, three more than in 1997-98 and well above the average of about 130 species per year over last ten years. The total number of birds counted was 445,000, unchanged from 1997-98. The fall period was unseasonably mild, and this weather pattern continued into mid-December. The count period was generally mild with favorable weather, except for colder weather and a winter storm at the end of the count period. Counts conducted the first weekend experienced mild weather and an abundance of open water. The top count this year was Keokuk with 91 species, the second best Iowa CBC ever behind the 92 species found at Saylorville Reservoir in 1990. Saylorville Reservoir (87) and Burlington (80) were the only other counts to reach the 80s this year. Generally, most counts were well above their average species total. Along the Mississippi River, Yellow River Forest (68) turned in an excellent total for that count. Omaha (70) was the top Missouri River count. In the Northern Third, Spirit Lake (61) was the top count again this year, helped by a great waterbird list. There were several excellent counts in the Middle Third including Iowa City (79), Cedar Falls-Waterloo (70), and Jamaica (67). Rathbun (75) led all counts in the Southern Third. Boone County led all counts with 38 participants. This year, the average count had 13 observers in 6 parties and found 58 species. This represents a 5% increase in species totals from last year. Not included in Table 1 are the six miles by bicycle on the Iowa City CBC. Note that the Grinnell CBC was conducted on 9 January, outside the "official" CBC period from 18 December to 3 January. On a sad note, we will all miss Doug Rose, compiler of the Glenwood count and a participant on several other southwestern Iowa CBCs.

## REGULAR SPECIES

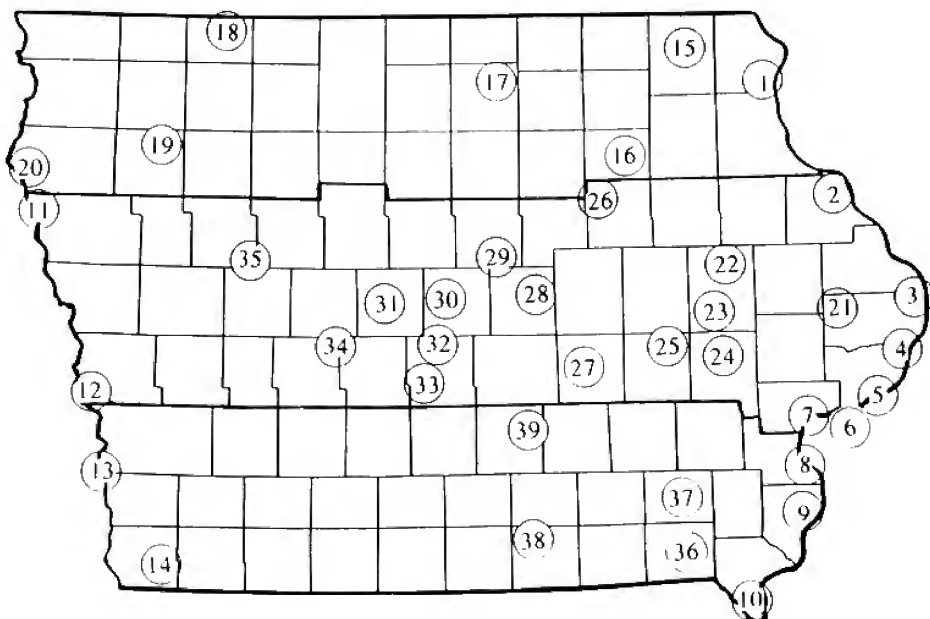
The following discussion refers to species listed in Tables 2 and 3. To put the information in perspective, I have often compared this year's totals with the average yearly total for all Iowa CBCs over the previous ten years. But, remember that effort (the number of CBCs conducted) has also varied over this time period, causing comparisons across years to be less straightforward. Reports of rare species are listed in Table 3.

There were several noteworthy trends in this year's counts. Notably, many waterbirds were detected in record numbers, especially the grebes and several species of waterfowl. Raptors were a mixed bag with several species present in unusually low numbers. The lack of snow cover on many counts probably influenced the totals of species such as Ring-necked Pheasant and Snow Bunting, both of which were found in very low numbers this year. I also suspect that the seed crop was rather poor this year and contributed to lower-than-normal totals for several sparrow species and Northern Cardinal. The following discussion provides a more detailed analysis of species trends for the 1998-99 count period.

**Grebes, pelicanids, and herons.** The mild pre-count weather allowed many waterbirds to linger into the CBC period. This included an amazing 2 loon species, 4 grebe species, and 30 waterfowl species. Pied-billed Grebes were found in record



numbers with 71 counted statewide, easily topping the 10-year average of 4. The 18 American White Pelicans were a record CBC total, well above the 10-year average of 3. The 40 Double-crested Cormorants were also an above average total. Despite the abundance of open water, only an average number (72) of Great Blue Herons were counted. Not surprisingly, 63 (88%) were from Mississippi River counts.



*Figure 1. Locations of Iowa Christmas Bird Counts, 1998-99.*

**Geese and swans.** It was a banner year for waterfowl. Greater White-fronted Geese occurred in record numbers (69), well above the 10-year average of 8. Snow Geese rebounded from last year's low total with 4,579 counted. This is still well below the 10-year average of 122,000, although all counts since 1993-94 have been less than 10,000. An average number of Ross's Geese (6) were found this year. Canada Geese had another strong showing with 44,787 counted, well above the average of 27,000. This species was missed on only two CBCs this year. Regionally, 16% were from Mississippi River counts, 4% from Missouri River counts, 18% from counts in the Northern Third, 58% from counts in the Middle Third, and 4% from counts in the Southern Third. Swans were present in good numbers again this year. At least eight Trumpeter Swans were seen, not counting several additional birds of questionable origin. Numbers of Tundra Swans (136) were down slightly from last year's record count, but still well above the average of 33.

**Ducks.** Six species of ducks were found in record numbers this year; Gadwall (1,223), American Wigeon (309), Northern Shoveler (341), Bufflehead (344), Hooded Merganser (208), and Ruddy Duck (607). Several other species also occurred in above average numbers, including Wood Duck (44), Mallard (100,434), Northern Pintail (153), Canvasback (4,067), Redhead (78), Ring-necked Duck (826), and Lesser Scaup (1,223). Of the Mallard total, 68% were found on Mississippi River counts.



Typically, most Mallards are found on counts along the Missouri River and in the Middle Third, so this year's totals were interesting. The "sea ducks" were well represented this year with three Surf Scoters, one White-winged Scoter, three Black Scoters, and three Oldsquaw. Not surprisingly, two of the hardier waterfowl species (Common Goldeneye and Common Merganser) were scarce this year, perhaps because many of them lingered north of Iowa. Only 1,969 Common Goldeneye were counted, the second lowest count in the last 10 years and well below the average of 4,287. Common Mergansers were also scarce with only 4,804 counted, well below the average of 9,600. Of this total, 3,616 (75%) were from four counts (Iowa City, Saylorville Reservoir, Rathbun Reservoir, and Red Rock Reservoir), each of which encompasses a large reservoir.

**Table 1.** Site Data for 1998-99 Christmas Bird Counts.

Location	Date	Total Species	Total Birds	Field Obs	Pts	Miles Car	Owling Ft	Feeder Hr	Temp L	Snow H	Wind Depth
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>											
1. Yellow River For	28 Dec	68	6960	12	7	43	355	21	3	25	0 0 10 31 1 W 2-14
2. Dubuque	3 Jan	27	1305	3	2	13	46	3	0	0	1 1 10 14 12 NW 20-30
3. Clinton	26 Dec	72	35504	8	4	36	373	8	5	91	0 0 24 34 0 SW 5-15
4. Princeton	21 Dec	59	5031	7	4	36	295	7	3	33	1 1 13 25 0 NW 10-25
5. Davenport	20 Dec	79	16204	18	7	51	527	16	9	85	12 18 27 30 0 NE 0-15
6. Andalusia	23 Dec	50	4572	5	3	27	250	4	4	24	0 0 9 25 0 W 5-20
7. Muscatine	27 Dec	68	20126	8	4	34	388	9	6	69	8 6 32 43 0 NE 5-15
8. Oakville	22 Dec	70	69574	7	4	33	299	4	5	53	0 0 3 14 0 NW 5-20
9. Burlington	19 Dec	80	5988	10	5	42	250	34	2	26	5 22 28 35 0 N 10-15
10. Keokuk	21 Dec	91	42715	12	8	70	626	18	1	5	1 4 32 38 0 N 15-25
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>											
11. Sioux City	26 Dec	58	6130	17	6	55	?	?	2	2	2 8 8 28 1 SE 20-25
12. De Soto NWR	2 Jan	66	7451	9	3	24	125	5	2	3	0 0 8 13 8 N 10-20
13. Omaha, NE	19 Dec	70	10511	35	15	69	?	?	4	19	4 8 15 25 0 NW 10-20
14. Shenandoah	29 Dec	63	4516	18	5	34	466	18	1	1	4 15 15 23 0 NNW 10-30
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>											
15. Decorah	26 Dec	52	5096	14	5	36	303	10	1	5	3 3 -1 29 1 S 0-12
16. Bremer County	19 Dec	52	5220	13	5	31	390	8	1	8	0 0 18 21 0 NW 5-10
17. Mason City	19 Dec	50	5815	11	7	30	260	13	1	1	5 5 12 19 0 N 9-17
18. Spirit Lake	19 Dec	61	7467	8	5	40	397	17	0	0	20 35 7 8 0 NW 8-30
19. Cherokee	19 Dec	47	3764	6	3	21	209	4	2	7	2 7 9 16 0 NNW 10-15
20. Westfield	3 Jan	46	3298	8	5	28	332	11	2	5	1 3 -8 4 7 NW 15-34
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>											
21. Lost Nation	18 Dec	51	4213	12	5	39	381	7	2	18	1 4 32 38 0 SSW 5-20
22. North Linn	30 Dec	53	4253	10	4	31	290	12	2	10	2 6 -4 10 1 NW 5-15
23. Cedar Rapids	19 Dec	66	15956	20	7	63	465	26	7	61	10 30 30 35 0 NW 5-15
24. Iowa City	20 Dec	79	22491	25	9	69	744	16	4	42	15 55 26 31 0 N 0-5
25. Amana	26 Dec	50	1420	9	3	23	110	9	2	3	0 0 11 23 0 S 0-5
26. Ced Falls-Water.	20 Dec	70	11270	10	6	38	368	11	1	4	5 6 17 21 0 NW 5-15
27. Grinnell	9 Jan	30	772	10	2	14	80	10	2	?	4 60 -17 110 N 0-5
28. Marshalltown	28 Dec	41	6093	?	5	31	453	4	0	0	3 18 18 36 0 SSE 10-20
29. Eldora-Union	23 Dec	35	1475	4	3	19	231	3	1	6	4 14 5 21 0 NW 5-15
30. Ames	19 Dec	58	24095	35	17	72	403	67	3	14	10 12 15 22 0 NNW 11-20
31. Boone County	1 Jan	58	8239	38	17	75	360	37	4	2	16 74 5 12 5 E 10-15
32. Saylorville	20 Dec	87	34767	25	11	94	603	47	2	13	0 0 14 20 0 NW 5-15
33. Des Moines	3 Jan	49	26567	10	5	35	350	4	0	0	4 14 -2 9 14 NW 20-35
34. Jamaica	22 Dec	67	13135	9	5	39	516	11	2	24	0 0 -2 18 0 SW 8-12
35. Sac County	3 Jan	20	1115	5	?	?	?	?	?	?	5 24 -10 0 10 W 20-30
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>											
36. Van Buren Co.	19 Dec	31	634	2	1	10	168	2	3	31	0 0 17 24 0 NW 0-25
37. Jefferson County	20 Dec	33	800	10	1	6	86	1	2	6	3 2 22 28 0 none
38. Rathbun	19 Dec	75	12157	24	9	61	698	12	5	36	8 16 24 28 0 NW 17
39. Red Rock Res.	19 Dec	68	30912	12	6	49	433	15	1	18	0 0 18 21 0 N 10-15
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>444,896</b>								

**Hawks and falcons.** Despite the mild weather, Bald Eagles were detected in good numbers (1,540), slightly above the 10-year average of 1,385. More than half of this total (56%) came from Mississippi River counts. Northern Harriers made a good showing (124), well above the 10-year average of 76 and the second highest

Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1998-99.

Location	Pi Bl Gr	Do Cr Co	Gr Bl He	Gr WF Go	Sn Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Tu Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma	No Sh	No Pi
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>															
1. Yellow River Forest			1			635		1		1		12	977		1
2. Dubuque				2		108							450		
3. Clinton				5		1,112		126	6	19	3	35	22,564		35
4. Princeton				2		191							624		1
5. Davenport	4	4	3			613				8	8	7	1,289		3
6. Andalusia						18	1			6		2	253		
7. Muscatine				19		1,376			1	12	1	9	1,797		3
8. Oakville				15		766			4	5	3	34	35,816	3	65
9. Burlington		8	4	12		682			6	45	2	1	289	4	5
10. Keokuk		1	1	5		31	1,498		5	61	5	13	3,656	18	5
Subtotal	13	10	63	0	33	6,999	1	127	22	157	22	113	67,715	25	118
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>															
11. Sioux City						508			1	43		1	1,157	1	1
12. De Soto NWR		2	1			565					1		1,216		1
13. Omaha, NE		11	1			610			12	230	57		766		
14. Shenandoah						45	144				1		96	6	3
Subtotal	13	2	0	0	2,898	1,827	0	0	13	273	59	1	3,235	7	5
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>															
15. Decorah						27							10		
16. Bremer County					50	555				128	10		1,475		2
17. Mason City						2,732				3	1	2	953		
18. Spirit Lake	2				8	3,015		4	4	113	9		359	113	
19. Cherokee				1		1,942				7	1		91		
20. Westfield					125								1		
Subtotal	2	0	0	1	183	8,271	0	4	4	251	21	2	2,889	113	2
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>															
21. Lost Nation				1		405							90		
22. North Linn						1			2			1	140		
23. Cedar Rapids	3		1			407				35	1	7	2,586		
24. Iowa City	3	5	1		251	2,977			1	131	125	1	7,354	34	8
25. Amana						45	2	1		1			4		
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo						1,433		4	2	12	12	4	2,154	1	3
27. Grinnell						300							28		
28. Marshalltown					1	3,788				3			48		
29. Eldora-Union						140									
30. Ames					66	1,706	1				3		54		
31. Boone County						19									
32. Saylorville Reservoir	5			31	131	5,689				94	12	10	7,071	81	6
33. Des Moines				2	1	368				1			111	1	
34. Jamaica	1	1		35	565	8,000				120	37		1,803	51	8
35. Sac County						500	4						300		
Subtotal	12	6	3	68	1,015	25,778	7	5	5	397	190	23	21,743	168	25
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>															
36. Van Buren County	1		1							2			130	1	
37. Jefferson County						19									
38. Rathbun Reservoir	6	7	4		450	619				81		3	3,328	22	2
39. Red Rock Reservoir	24	15	1			1,274				62	17	2	1,394	5	1
Subtotal	31	22	6	0	450	1,912	0	0	0	145	17	5	4,852	28	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>4,579</b>	<b>44,787</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>100,434</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>153</b>
	Pi Bl Gr	Do Cr Co	Gr Bl He	Gr WF Go	Sn Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Tu Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma	No Sh	No Pi

total in the last 10 years. Accipiter numbers were slightly above average with Sharpshinned Hawks (51) outnumbering Cooper's Hawks (40). Only four Northern Goshawks were reported. Numbers of Red-tailed Hawks (1,611) were well above the 10-year average of 1,357. Rough-legged Hawks (123) were present in only average numbers; 93 (76%) were from counts in the northern half of the state. Falcon numbers were low this year. American Kestrels (467) were detected in the lowest

Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1998-99.

Location	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me	Ru Du	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Ha	Co Ha
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>															
1. Yellow River Forest		3	2		5		1		24		23	82	21	3	
2. Dubuque												14		1	1
3. Clinton		321	11	95	59		233	4	91		33	121	2	1	3
4. Princeton	2				1	12	52		28			79		2	1
5. Davenport	14	2		3	47	18	15	5	5	1	4	49	1		
6. Andalusia		1					15		10		1	63	2		3
7. Muscatine		11			14		3		307			123	4	2	3
8. Oakville	10	1		12		3	9	2	69		1	112	1		2
9. Burlington	2	150	2	2	182	10	32	2	1		1	38	1	4	
10. Keokuk	133	3,481	20	562	468	263	828	25	539	6	246	179	6	3	3
Subtotal	161	3,970	35	674	776	306	1,188	38	1,074	7	309	860	38	16	16
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>															
11. Sioux City	3						15	1	6			5	1		
12. De Soto NWR	1	1			6		56		82	2	4	44	4	1	
13. Omaha, NE	11	2			14		97		3			23		1	1
14. Shenandoah	1		3	1				1	1		5	42	12	2	1
Subtotal	16	3	3	1	20	0	168	4	92	2	9	114	17	4	2
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>															
15. Decorah												53	5	4	1
16. Bremer County	2											7		1	1
17. Mason City					1									1	
18. Spirit Lake	25	52	4	22	102	15	103	7	5		84	2		1	
19. Cherokee			1		11							6		2	
20. Westfield							15					2		1	1
Subtotal	27	52	5	22	114	15	118	7	5	0	84	70	5	10	3
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>															
21. Lost Nation												61	13	1	3
22. North Linn												77	3		4
23. Cedar Rapids	5			4			24	6	1			45		2	1
24. Iowa City	510	5		93	151	10	41	8	65		27	31	2	1	
25. Amana												16	3	2	
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	4		4		10	1	7	1	3	2	41	5		1	2
27. Gnnell															
28. Marshalltown				1					1		1	31			1
29. Eldora-Union												5	1		
30. Ames					4				4			4	1	1	2
31. Boone County								1				15		3	1
32. Saylorville Reservoir	79	44	12	17	122	2	191	30	2,260	1	123	43	7	4	4
33. Des Moines					1		15		2			33		4	
34. Jamaica	30	1	1		1		25	8	6		1	11	4		
35. Sac County												2			
Subtotal	628	50	17	115	289	13	303	54	2,342	3	193	379	34	19	18
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>															
36. Van Buren County		12									3	8			
37. Jefferson County							4								
38. Rathbun Reservoir	150		15	12	2	4	9	18	41		6	30	21	2	1
39. Red Rock Reservoir	80		3	2	22	6	179	87	1,250		3	79	9		
Subtotal	230	12	18	14	24	10	192	105	1,291	0	12	117	30	2	1
<b>TOTAL</b>															
	1,062	4,087	78	826	1,223	344	1,969	208	4,804	12	607	1,540	124	51	40
	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Re Br Me	Ru Du	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Ha	Co Ha

numbers in the last 10 years, well below the 10-year average of 598. Only two Merlins were found, well below the average of six per year.

**Grouse and quail.** Gallinaceous birds were generally scarce this year. Gray Partridge continue to hang on with 32 reported from five counts, all in the northern half of the state. Ring-necked Pheasants (935) were well below the 10-year average of 1,747, possibly because of the lack of significant snow cover on most counts. Wild

Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1998-99.

Location	No Go	Ac Sp	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Am Ke	Gr Pa	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Am Co	Ki	Co Sn	Bo Gu	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Th Gu
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>																
1. Yellow River Forest			98	26	8		1	285		1	2	3		2		
2. Dubuque			2													1
3. Clinton			56	4	25		11				2					2
4. Princeton			25		10		2	84	15	77	2	11		620	188	
5. Davenport			50	2	31		3	16		1	13	4		1,508	217	1
6. Andalusia			50		10									1,221		66
7. Muscatine			60	2	30		14	23	1			1		633	230	
8. Oakville			33	2	10		1	11	12			1		617	25	
9. Burlington			28	3	29		17	3		3		5	21	580	1	
10. Keokuk			33	2	12			10	42		34	6	13	4,172	72	1
Subtotal	0	0	435	41	165	0	49	432	70	82	53	31	34	9,353	802	2
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>																
11. Sioux City		1	35	5	11		28	4			3	6				
12. De Soto NWR			22	6	4		39	43				5				
13. Omaha, NE			68	2	14		1	46		10				210		
14. Shenandoah			44		16		12	5		4		1				
Subtotal	0	1	169	13	45	0	80	98	0	14	3	12	0	210		0
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>																
15. Decorah			110	12	5		5	18				5				
16. Bremer County		1	21	5	7	2	10	14								
17. Mason City		1	14	1	2	9	26	2						13		
18. Spirit Lake			9		1		67			629				60	35	
19. Cherokee			32		2		8	5		1						
20. Westfield		1	15	7	6		67	50								
Subtotal	3	0	201	25	23	11	183	89	0	634	0	5	0	73	35	0
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>																
21. Lost Nation			55	2	48		65	66	5		4					
22. North Linn			32	2	7		271	65				3				
23. Cedar Rapids			43	3	18		24	80		8	1	2		587	4	
24. Iowa City		1	129	3	18		28	40		12	22	1		4,040	32	
25. Amara			20	2	4		1	2		3	1	1				
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		1	31	3	5	8	23	7								
27. Grinnell			12	1	1		5									
28. Marshalltown			28	1	7		3	2								
29. Eldora-Union			49	5	2		41									
30. Ames			53	2	3	5	40							74		
31. Boone County			31	1	3	8	76	75								
32. Saylorville Reservoir			59	1	11		11	26		22		3	3	8,500	200	1
33. Des Moines			45	3	2		4									
34. Jamaica			40	2	10		23	45	3		1					
35. Sac County							19									
Subtotal	1	1	627	31	139	21	615	427	8	45	29	10	3	13,201	236	1
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>																
36. Van Buren County			9	1	7			19						6		
37. Jefferson County			25	3	17		1									
38. Rathbun Reservoir			76	6	59		2	119	15	9		1	44	1,948	10	
39. Red Rock Reservoir			69	3	12		5				2	16	1	22,000	200	1
Subtotal	0	0	179	13	95	0	8	138	15	9	2	17	45	23,954	210	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1,611</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>935</b>	<b>1,184</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>784</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>46,791</b>	<b>1,283</b>	<b>4</b>
	No Go	Ac Sp	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha	Am Ke	Gr Pa	Ri Ne Ph	Wi Tu	No Bo	Am Co	Ki	Co Sn	Bo Gu	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Th Gu

Turkeys (1,184) continued their strong showing, well above the 10-year average of 875. Conversely, numbers of Northern Bobwhite (93) continued to remain low and were well below the average of 301. Seventy of these (75%) were found on Mississippi River counts.

**Rails, shorebirds, and gulls.** American Coots made a strong showing this year with 784 reported statewide, well above the 10-year average of 71. They were

Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1998-99.

Location	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>															
1. Yellow River Forest	240	53	1	9	3		1	3	9	38		68	20	5	13
2. Dubuque	64	33								8		19		4	2
3. Clinton	1,955	81	16	18	14		8	4	2	48	2	83	13	15	2
4. Princeton	18	92	2	3				1	2	21		62	16	10	2
5. Davenport	1,297	594	4	17	8			9	26	37	1	143	23	22	5
6. Andalusia	123	9		3	2			4	6	31	1	79	16	10	2
7. Muscatine	1,080	422	8	8	9		2	9	5	81		117	17	20	10
8. Oakville	108	36	5	5	2			4	3	41		48	17	17	4
9. Burlington	216	65	1	1	3			5	2	23	1	59	5	9	2
10. Keokuk	312	153		1				8	7	46	1	54	9	24	6
Subtotal	5,413	1,538	37	65	41	0	11	47	62	374	6	732	136	136	48
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>															
11. Sioux City	542		3	9				5		19	1	83	14	18	
12. De Soto NWR	9	2	3	2	1					14		35	3	26	
13. Omaha, NE	179	5	4	4	1			3		67	1	177	19	54	
14. Shenandoah	78	9		2				3		17		48	6	11	
Subtotal	808	16	10	17	2	0	0	11	0	117	2	343	42	109	0
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>															
15. Decorah	482	17	3	1	1		3	8		42		53	15	1	3
16. Bremer County	175	1	2	3	2			2	3	11		25	9	1	1
17. Mason City	158	7	1	6		2		1	1	11		56	14	2	
18. Spirit Lake	3			2			1	1		24		103	37	3	
19. Cherokee	251	1	2	2				1		11		24	6	23	
20. Westfield	32	13		2	1	1				11		25	8	11	
Subtotal	1,101	39	8	16	4	3	4	13	4	110	0	286	89	41	4
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>															
21. Lost Nation	138	189	3	2	4			1	4	18		55	8	4	
22. North Linn	65	41	1	10	9			1	3	29		76	11	15	1
23. Cedar Rapids	395	172	2	12	8			3	11	49	1	169	18	10	
24. Iowa City	282	156	3	4	6			5	5	57	2	110	11	18	
25. Amana	60	2	4	7	5			3		17		18	3	7	3
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	214	254	2	1	5			2	2	22		61	12	1	2
27. Grinnell	2	4		2						2		19	2	3	
28. Marshalltown	144	26		1	2			1	3	13		27	8	5	
29. Eldora-Union	9	3		6	3		6	1	11	15		23	7		
30. Ames	313	33	1	3	6			6		54	1	165	26	5	
31. Boone County	104	30	1	1	1	3	1	2	11	71	1	159	53	3	1
32. Saylorville Reservoir	214	113	2	9	2	14	8	2	1	54		139	24	17	
33. Des Moines	511	142		1				4		14		44	8	10	1
34. Jamaica	115	1	1	5	1	8	1	2	4	24		31	7	9	
35. Sac County									4			15	3		
Subtotal	2,566	1,166	20	63	53	25	16	33	59	439	5	1,111	201	107	8
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>															
36. Van Buren County	4								5	6		1		5	
37. Jefferson County	44	24		2				1	1	5		15	1		
38. Rathbun Reservoir	86	1	1	1	4	4	2	2	5	52		75	10	52	
39. Red Rock Reservoir	29	1	1	3	2			3	3	32		56	12	22	
Subtotal	163	26	2	6	6	4	2	6	14	95	0	147	23	79	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10,051</b>	<b>2,785</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1,135</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2,619</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>60</b>
	Ro Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo

reported from 15 CBCs in all parts of the state, no doubt because of the warm pre-count weather. Shorebird numbers were excellent this year with 87 Killdeer and 75 Common Snipe, both record CBC totals and well above their 10-year averages of 17 and 25, respectively. Killdeer were concentrated along the Mississippi River (61% of total), a typical pattern. Gull numbers were a bit disappointing this year, considering the mild pre-count weather. Bonaparte's Gulls occurred in record numbers (82), well

Table 2e. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1998-99.

Location	No Sh	Sh Sp	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>															
1. Yellow River Forest	4		62	270	15	248	28	8	92	6		3	26		
2. Dubuque			14	25		44	10		7						
3. Clinton			136	372	9	175	82		93	36	8	3	7	5	
4. Princeton			47	158	50	129	34		32	19		1	7	10	
5. Davenport			152	1,515	7	329	66		145	51	6	1	3	3	
6. Andalusia			54	165	1	304	24	2	100	17			5		
7. Muscatine			140	378	6	178	54		113	15	4	1	2		
8. Oakville			29	28,822	25	96	23		46	9	3	1	1	1	1
9. Burlington			22	252		130	27		24	5	7	3	1		
10. Keokuk			89	20,000	36	189	51		54	17	17	1	15	9	
Subtotal	4	0	745	51,957	149	1,822	399	10	706	175	45	14	67	28	1
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>															
11. Sioux City			59	260	176				35	19			6		1
12. De Soto NWR			30	31	1,681	99	1		11				3	6	
13. Omaha, NE			106	441	18	306	42		167	15	5	6	8	11	
14. Shenandoah	1		68	122	69	84	14		29	4	1	2	1		
Subtotal	1	0	263	854	1,944	489	57	0	242	38	6	8	18	17	1
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>															
15. Decorah	3		177	438	2	147	13	1	69	11		1	3		
16. Bremer County	2		64	207	40	36		1	33	2					
17. Mason City			85	471	3	79			29	9					
18. Spirit Lake	1		89	180	56	292	4	113	18	1			1		
19. Cherokee	1		49	175	20	96		1	23	4				11	1
20. Westfield			39	96	270	67			23	2				18	1
Subtotal	7	0	503	1,567	391	717	13	7	290	46	1	1	4	29	2
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>															
21. Lost Nation	2		52	668	1	63	13	6	38	9	1	1			
22. North Linn	1		82	227	27	208	36	2	23	17	1		17	1	
23. Cedar Rapids	2		56	4,448	1	577	80	1	120	18	2		1		1
24. Iowa City	1		83	961	20	259	79	8	78	7	4		2		1
25. Amana			15	80	1	40	2		22	1			1		
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	2		72	4,257	3	112		1	47	3					
27. Grinnell			10	34	71	13			9	1					
28. Marshalltown			46	200	15	69	8	1	29						
29. Eldora-Union			50	84	1	29	2		18	1					
30. Ames	1		97	14,200	79	371	11		116	30	1	2	5		
31. Boone County	1	1	141	512	542	370	67	3	129	13	1			4	
32. Saylorville Reservoir	4		97	423	100	296	5	3	75	3	2	1	20		
33. Des Moines			31	14,000	110	121	11		28	1					
34. Jamaica	2		97	157	19	70	2		31	4		1	2		
35. Sac County			17			15									
Subtotal	16	1	946	40,251	990	2,613	316	25	763	108	12	5	48	5	2
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>															
36. Van Buren County			12	24		5	3		9	3					
37. Jefferson County			16	22		13	11		8	2					
38. Rathbun Reservoir			163	184		134	24		29	2			14	3	
39. Red Rock Reservoir			46	464	8	141	8		35	5			3	5	
Subtotal	0	0	237	694	8	293	46	0	81	12	0	0	17	8	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2,694</b>	<b>95,323</b>	<b>3,482</b>	<b>5,934</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2,082</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>6</b>
	No Sh	Sh Sp	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ea Bl	He Th

above the average of 5 birds. Ring-billed Gulls also occurred in above average numbers (46,791), but were slightly below the record total of 48,200 in 1990-91. Ring-billed Gulls tend to concentrate along the larger rivers and reservoirs. This year was no exception with 20% on Mississippi River counts, 28% on counts in the Middle Third, and 51% on counts in the Southern Third. This is contrasted with near record low numbers of Herring Gulls (1,283), well below the average of 4,352. Most

Table 2f. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1998-99.

Location	Am Ro	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ye Ru Wa	Sp To	Ea To	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>														
1. Yellow River Forest	102	631	192	3			555		4		1			702
2. Dubuque		20					119		5					109
3. Clinton	563	2,191	46	2			364		23	7	7			829
4. Princeton	180	460					306		14	6	1		6	476
5. Davenport	41	2,564	12			1	467	1	70	20	30		2	1,480
6. Andalusia	1	437					354		20	4				354
7. Muscatine	291	5,556	2	1			889	1	27	42	9	2		898
8. Oakville	163	728					382		22	1				443
9. Burlington	236	907	3				434		49	1	8			451
10. Keokuk	108	1,195	6	38		2	1,020	4	80	46	90	19	47	879
Subtotal	1,685	14,689	261	44	0	3	4,890	6	314	127	146	21	55	6,621
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>														
11. Sioux City	6	1,253	128		1		335		2	1		3	3	527
12. De Soto NWR		173			1	2	536	1	14	3	1	30		782
13. Omaha, NE	96	794	65		1	1	384	2	16	1	4	32		1,986
14. Shenandoah	273	1,178	140				506		8	1	2	15	24	544
Subtotal	375	3,398	333	0	3	3	1,761	3	40	6	7	80	27	3,839
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>														
15. Decorah	43	564	127				468				2			664
16. Bremer County	3	519	27				280		2	1				407
17. Mason City	52	245	6				36		1		4	1		202
18. Spirit Lake	6	467	32				110		1			2		94
19. Cherokee	8	482	17	3			13	1				5		109
20. Westfield	32	466	3				507		2			2	1	397
Subtotal	144	2,743	212	3	0	0	1,414	1	6	1	6	10	1	1,873
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>														
21. Lost Nation	4	855	91	1			341		5					229
22. North Linn	133	399	5				780		1		1			417
23. Cedar Rapids	127	1,932	41				544		8	4	8			716
24. Iowa City	334	1,616	5		1		294		24	1	13		5	466
25. Amana	30	110	5				325		20	3			1	175
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	4	449	14				333	1	27	1	2		1	427
27. Grinnell	2		9				43							97
28. Marshalltown	24	885					71							161
29. Eldora-Union		314					112							101
30. Ames	505	2,090	146				490		3		9	7		1,039
31. Boone County	18	698	3				999		34	3		7	5	2,474
32. Saylorville Reservoir	1,285	1,901	345				1,512		33	4	6	19	8	1,510
33. Des Moines	214	8,000					241		7		4	1		511
34. Jamaica	216	167	157				245	1	4	7				500
35. Sac County	1	4					2					3		75
Subtotal	2,897	19,420	821	1	1	0	6,332	2	166	23	43	37	20	8,898
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>														
36. Van Buren County		208					28							51
37. Jefferson County	11	270					51		2	1				93
38. Rathbun Reservoir	342	504	46	1			1,165		9	8		1	1	754
39. Red Rock Reservoir	89	377	19				954		6				1	716
Subtotal	442	1,359	65	1	0	0	2,198	0	17	9	0	1	2	1,614
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,543</b>	<b>41,609</b>	<b>1,692</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16,595</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>202</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>22,845</b>
	Am Ro	Eu St	Ce Wa	Ye Ru Wa	Sp To	Ea To	Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju

(63%) of the Herring Gulls were found on Mississippi River counts this year. Numbers of Thayer's Gulls (4) were average while numbers of Glaucous Gulls (2) were slightly below average.

**Doves, owls, and kingfisher.** Mourning Doves (2,785) made a strong showing, slightly above the 10-year average of 2,316. As usual, the majority (55%) were found on Mississippi River counts. Numbers of the three regular owls (Eastern



Table 2g. Christmas Bird Count Data, 1998-99.

Location	La Lo	Sn Bu	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	Me Sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>														
1. Yellow River Forest			129	251			1	44	8	26		285	556	
2. Dubuque			27							112		42	56	
3. Clinton	39	2	151	700			2	10	3	62		83	2,253	
4. Princeton	60		171		2		1			97		67	438	
5. Davenport	3		317	559			8	10	19	137	4	83	1,961	
6. Andalusia	12		146							21		33	488	21
7. Muscatine			210	2			4	89		236	20	142	4,301	45
8. Oakville	3		96	80	1		14	28				104	452	63
9. Burlington	2		108				1	1		41	40	77	398	187
10. Keokuk			294	28			72	5	2	69		155	1,029	134
Subtotal	119	2	1,649	1,620	3	0	103	187	32	801	64	1,071	11,932	450
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>														
11. Sioux City			33	10		1				5	52	16	490	
12. De Soto NWR	50		55	652	1					1		12	196	
13. Omaha, NE			194	87	67	50	5	50	5	55	4	231	533	
14. Shenandoah	106		73	52	34	1	1			71		115	354	
Subtotal	156	0	355	801	102	52	6	50	5	132	56	374	1,573	0
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>														
15. Decorah			159	25		4		2	3	136	3	141	1,002	
16. Bremer County	10		57	1			21			18		49	912	
17. Mason City	6	5	41	5			3		3	68		24	368	
18. Spirit Lake	43		9			9				10		25	785	
19. Cherokee			27	1		12				52		12	210	
20. Westfield	66	63	15	1	2		3			1		40	785	
Subtotal	125	68	308	33	2	25	27	2	6	285	3	291	4,062	0
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>														
21. Lost Nation	1		76	47			2		8	45		10	399	
22. North Linn	2	2	223			1			6	98	1	83	589	
23. Cedar Rapids	1	100	391					50	2	160	1	138	1,125	
24. Iowa City		13	307					1	14	62	6	207	796	
25. Amana			45	30			10	100		4		21	180	
26. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	37	16	185	5			2		4	105		60	735	
27. Grinnell		2	33	2						29		28	5	
28. Marshalltown			47							83	4	15	302	
29. Eldora-Union	120		53				21			51	1	31	146	
30. Ames	50		226	4	1		3	52		179	22	120	1,591	
31. Boone County	331	3	359	2	9		6		2	108	5	169	540	
32. Saylorville Reservoir	310	24	303	304			6	71	1	21		55	509	
33. Des Moines	34	3	146				8	1		168		93	1,500	
34. Jamaica			107	11	10		1			11		55	214	
35. Sac County			33						7	4		57	50	
Subtotal	886	163	2,534	405	20	1	59	275	44	1,128	40	1,142	8,681	0
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>														
36. Van Buren County			3						1			40	26	
37. Jefferson County			15		1				1	5		10	106	
38. Rathbun Reservoir		1	177	72	21		3	2	11	17		281	767	
39. Red Rock Reservoir	25		139		1					15		155	692	
Subtotal	25	1	334	72	23	0	3	2	13	37	0	486	1,591	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>5,180</b>	<b>2,931</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>2,383</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>3,364</b>	<b>27,839</b>	<b>450</b>
	La Lo	Sn Bu	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	Me Sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp

Screech, Great Horned, and Bared) were all well below average. Numbers of Long-eared Owls (32) were average while numbers of Short-eared Owls (33) were well above average. Only two Northern Saw-whet Owls were detected, below the 10-year average of seven. Despite the abundance of open water, Belted Kingfishers (110) were detected in only average numbers.

**Woodpeckers, shrikes, corvids, and lark.** Red-headed Woodpeckers continued their recent winter absence in Iowa with only 139 detected this year, the

lowest total in the last 10 years and well below the average of 373. The vast majority of birds were found along the Mississippi River (45% of total) and in the Middle Third (42% of total). This low total can probably be blamed on the poor acorn crop. Numbers of Northern Flickers (472) were also well below average this year. Flickers tend to concentrate along the major river valleys, and this year was no exception; 29% were along the Mississippi River and 23% were along the Missouri River. The remaining woodpecker species were detected in near-normal numbers. Shrike numbers were interesting this year. Given the mild weather, I would have expected good numbers of Loggerhead Shrikes. However, only 3 were found, a record low count and well below the average of 14. Contrast this to Northern Shrikes (28), which were slightly above the 10-year average of 22. Most (57%) Northern Shrikes were found in the Middle Third. Numbers of Blue Jays (2,694), another species for which acorns are an important winter dietary component, were the lowest in the last 10 years and well below the average of 4,653. American Crows (95,323) reached their second highest total ever, well above the average of 65,770. Of this total, 55% were found on Mississippi River counts. Numbers of Horned Larks (3,482) were well above the average of 2,504. Most of these were along the Missouri River (56% of total) and in the Middle Third (28% of total).

**Nuthatches, creeper, and wrens.** Red-breasted Nuthatch numbers (42) were well below the average of 189; 60% of this total came from counts in the Middle Third. This decline is not surprising after the excellent totals in 1997-98. Their numbers peak in about one out of every three years. White-breasted Nuthatches (2,082) were slightly below average this year. Brown Creepers (379) had a banner year, the second highest total ever and well above the average of 293. Of this total, 46% were from Mississippi River counts and 28% were from counts in the Middle Third. Numbers of the two regular wren species were excellent, probably due in part to the mild pre-count weather. There were 64 Carolina Wrens, above the 10-year average of 51. Winter Wrens (28) were nearly double their average of 15 birds. Most (70%) of the Carolina Wrens were found along the Mississippi River, and they were reported from all regions except, surprisingly, the Southern Third. Interestingly, no Marsh Wrens were found this year.

**Kinglets, thrushes, waxwings, and warblers.** Golden-crowned Kinglets (154) had a good year, the best total since 1993-94 and above the 10-year average of 126. Only a single Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found, a bit surprising given the mild weather. There was mixed news for the frugivorous birds. Eastern Bluebirds (87) were surprisingly scarce, although this was the best total since 1994-95. The 10-year average is 171 bluebirds. This year, the Northern Third had the greatest number of bluebirds (33% of total). Hermit Thrushes (7) were found in record numbers, well above the average of two. American Robins (5,543) occurred in record numbers, five times the 10-year average of 1,043. Of this total, 53% were from counts in the Middle Third and 30% were from Mississippi River counts. But Cedar Waxwings (1,692) made a poor showing, well below the average of 2,604. It was another good year for Yellow-rumped Warblers (49), more than double the average of 21. However, 38 of these were at Keokuk.

**Sparrows.** Towhee numbers were about normal. However, the distribution of the two species was interesting. Of the four Spotted Towhees, three were on Missouri River counts and one was at Iowa City. Surprisingly, the six Eastern Towhees were evenly split between Mississippi and Missouri River counts. I would have expected winter towhees along the Missouri River to have been Spotted Towhees. Perhaps the mild fall weather allowed a few Eastern Towhees to linger along the Missouri River,

an area they normally vacate in winter. Sparrow numbers were generally good this year, with a few exceptions. American Tree Sparrows (16,595) were above the 10-year average of 15,047. Despite the extremely mild pre-count weather, only two Field Sparrows were detected this year, the second lowest total in the last 10 years. Song Sparrows (543) were found in very low numbers, well below the 10-year average of 755; 58% were from Mississippi River counts. However, Swamp Sparrow numbers (166) were above the average of 116 for the second consecutive year. The numbers of *Zonotrichia* sparrows were generally good this year. Numbers of both White-throated (202) and White-crowned (105) sparrows were well above average, while Harris's Sparrows (149) were only slightly below average. The distribution of these three species was interesting. There were no surprises for White-throated Sparrow (72% from Mississippi River counts) or Harris's Sparrow (54% from Missouri River counts), but White-crowned Sparrows showed an atypical pattern with 53% from Mississippi River counts and just 26% from Missouri River counts. It was a good year for Dark-eyed Juncos; the total of 22,845 was well above the 10-year average of 15,944 and was the highest total since 1987-88. It is hard to draw any conclusions about the numbers of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings. Both of these species are of erratic winter occurrence in Iowa, and they are best detected during periods of persistent snow cover. Although very few counts reported snow cover on count day, numbers of Lapland Longspurs (1,311) were well above average, but the numbers of Snow Buntings (234) were about half the average of 532.

**Blackbirds.** It was another poor year for icterids. Red-winged Blackbirds, meadowlarks, Rusty Blackbirds, and Common Grackles were all found in below normal numbers. As usual, most meadowlarks (68% of total) were from Missouri River counts. The only species present in good numbers was Brown-headed Cowbird; the 516 that were counted were slightly above the 10-year average of 442. For only the second year since 1991-92, no Great-tailed Grackles were counted.

**Finches and passerids.** After a bumper year 1997-98, winter finch numbers plummeted this year. Purple Finches were scarce with only 100 counted, well below the average of 600; most (44%) were from counts in the Middle Third. House Finch numbers (2,383) were down from the last two years, but still well above the average of 1,910. Among the more erratic winter finches, only 24 Red Crossbills and 2 Common Redpolls were found this year, all in northeastern Iowa. Numbers of Pine Siskins (163) were the third lowest in the last 10 years and well below the average of 729. American Goldfinches were also scarce this year; 3,364 were counted, the lowest total in the last 10 years and well below the average of 5,186. Eurasian Tree Sparrows continue to solidify their range in southeast Iowa. A record 450 were counted this year, up from counts of 297 in both 1995-96 and 1996-97. All of these were along the lower Mississippi River, as far north as Andalusia. Interestingly, House Sparrow numbers were way down this year; only 27,839 were counted, well below the average of 42,939. Counts of this species were above 60,000 as recently as 1988-89 and 1989-90. If the trend is real, this is one decline we might actually applaud.

## NOTABLE MISSES

There were several notable misses this year, including Peregrine Falcon (5), Black-legged Kittiwake (5), Snowy Owl (5), Townsend's Solitaire (5), Gray Catbird (6), Northern Mockingbird (8), Vesper Sparrow (6), Great-tailed Grackle (5), White-winged Crossbill (5), and Evening Grosbeak (5). The number in parentheses is the number of years the species was recorded in the previous ten years.

**Table 3.** Species reported on three or fewer Iowa CBCs, 1998-99.

Species	Counts
Red-throated Loon	Burlington (1)
Common Loon	Burlington (2), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Horned Grebe	Davenport (1, in Illinois), Burlington (1), Spirit Lake (2)
Eared Grebe	Spirit Lake (1), Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Western Grebe	Burlington (1), Jamaica (1)
American White Pelican	Shenandoah (1), Red Rock Reservoir (17)
Ross's Goose	De Soto NWR (3), Jamaica (3)
Blue-winged Teal	Keokuk (1)
Greater Scaup	Keokuk (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Surf Scoter	Oakville (1, in Illinois), Keokuk (2)
White-winged Scoter	Clinton (1, in Illinois)
Black Scoter	Keokuk (3)
Oldsquaw	Keokuk (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1), Des Moines (1)
Red-shouldered Hawk	Keokuk (2), Bremer County (2), Cedar Falls-Waterloo (1)
Golden Eagle	Yellow River Forest (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Merlin	Boone County (1), Des Moines (1)
Prairie Falcon	De Soto NWR (1)
Ruffed Grouse	Yellow River Forest (1), Decorah (2)
Sandhill Crane	Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Franklin's Gull	Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Mew Gull	Keokuk (1), Saylorville Reservoir (1)
Glaucous Gull	Davenport (1), Cedar Falls-Waterloo (1)
Great Black-backed Gull	Muscatine (1)
Eurasian Collared-Dove	Grinnell (3)
Northern Saw-whet Owl	Cedar Falls-Waterloo (1), Iowa City (1)
Eastern Phoebe	Burlington (1), Red Rock Reservoir (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Princeton (1), Shenandoah (1), Ames (1)
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Iowa City (1)
Brown Thrasher	De Soto NWR (1), Iowa City (1), Des Moines (1)
Common Yellowthroat	Shenandoah (1)
Field Sparrow	Keokuk (2)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Keokuk (2), Omaha (5)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	De Soto NWR (1)
Brewer's Blackbird	Burlington (1, in Illinois), Eldora-Union (12)
Red Crossbill	Yellow River Forest (24)
Common Redpoll	Decorah (2)

## UNCOMMON SPECIES

This year, there were a number of unusual species reported. Many were waterbirds that lingered due to the unseasonably mild fall period. One new species was added to the Iowa all-time CBC list—a Red-throated Loon at Burlington, which had been present since November. Other good finds included Common Loons at Burlington and Saylorville Reservoir (sixth and seventh CBC records), Eared Grebes at Spirit Lake and Red Rock Reservoir (sixth and seventh CBC records), single Western Grebes at Burlington and Jamaica (second and third CBC records), a Blue-winged Teal at Keokuk (fifth CBC record in the last 10 years), an immature Sandhill Crane at Saylorville Reservoir (sixth CBC record; a straggler from the unprecedented November flight?), single Mew Gulls at Saylorville Reservoir and Keokuk (fifth and sixth CBC records), a Great Black-backed Gull at Muscatine (fourth CBC record),

single Eastern Phoebes at Burlington and Red Rock Reservoir (fourth and fifth CBC records), and a Common Yellowthroat at Shenandoah (third CBC record). The all-time Iowa CBC list now stands at 203 species.

Unfortunately, a few of species were deleted for a lack of details. A small number of counts continue to report birds without substantiating details. The purpose of requesting those details is to ensure that the sighting was correct and to have some physical evidence whereby others can judge the record. The inclusion of details also lets me know that the compiler didn't mistakenly report the wrong species. A continuing problem concerns the "countability" of Trumpeter Swans. As I understand it, birds that have been released in Iowa are not yet considered established, and are therefore **not** countable. Two of the three birds reported at Ames had green neck collars indicating they were released in 1998 at Bjorkboda Marsh in Hamilton County. In my opinion, those birds were clearly not countable as wild birds. However, the third bird was unbanded, and I have considered that bird wild and countable. Sorting out the "countability" of Trumpeter Swans is a continuing problem every year. An Osprey was documented at Shenandoah. This species would be extraordinary in winter at this latitude. To date, there are no *confirmed* records for Iowa between early November and late March, and I am skeptical of all winter reports. Can someone please photograph one of these birds? A Black-bellied Plover was reported without details at Rathbun and was deleted. I would not be surprised if this report were indeed correct, especially since many shorebirds lingered into early December this year. A Chipping Sparrow was reported, without details, at De Soto National Wildlife Refuge and was deleted. Other birds that were not supported by the required documentation included a Turkey Vulture and a Ross's Goose at Cedar Rapids. I thank this year's compilers for doing an excellent job of documenting unusual species this year.

I want to comment briefly on a potentially serious CBC problem. Apparently, several CBC circles were moved this year and other counts are considering future moves. These moves are usually an attempt to increase the species total. Unfortunately, every time a CBC circle is moved, we lose valuable comparisons to previous data for that count because of these changes. One purpose of CBCs is to attempt to document long-term changes in bird abundance. Our ability to detect such changes becomes difficult, if not impossible, when CBC circles are moved. Compilers should consider starting a new count before moving the boundary of an existing count.

Finally, a comment about calculating party hours for CBCs. I occasionally receive CBCs for which the party hours were obviously calculated incorrectly. For example, a count with two parties probably cannot have 20 party hours in the field. As a general rule, the total field party hours should probably not exceed ten times the number of field parties (there are about ten daylight hours in Iowa during the CBC period). A party hour is an hour spent in the field by a "party" of observers, whether that "party" consists of a single person or ten people birding together. I suspect most problems arise when compilers confuse "person" hours with party hours.

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# FIELD REPORTS--WINTER 1998-99

ROBERT I. CECIL

## WEATHER

This was about as close as we get to a nice winter. December temperatures averaged 6.5 degrees above normal, and averaged more than 20 degrees above normal for the first five days of the month, pushing into the 70s in many locations. Although there were some late December temperatures down to -17 degrees in northern Iowa, it was still the warmest December since 1987, and the 20th warmest in 126 years of state records. December precipitation was far below normal. January temperatures were far more seasonal, with averages slightly below normal and precipitation slightly above normal. This month was not without extremes. John Van Dyk reported wind chills of -50 on 4 Jan in Sioux Center and, on the next day, temperatures fell to -28 in several southern Iowa locations. Temperatures recovered into the low 50s in southern Iowa by the end of the month. February was almost springlike, with temperatures averaging 9.9 degrees above normal, the ninth warmest on record. Record high temperatures into the 70s occurred on 10 February in southern Iowa and also hit record highs in northern Iowa. It was only the third February on record without subzero temperatures. Precipitation was average for the month.



## GENERAL TRENDS

Last season's General Trends section nearly rewrote itself this season. The warm December enticed many of the same birds to linger, and the warm February lured many of the same birds to return early to the state. Most noteworthy of the lingering birds were Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe, Western Grebe, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Sandhill Crane, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Franklin's Gull, Eastern Phoebe, and Common Yellowthroat. Among the semi-hardy passerines, Brown Thrasher made the best showing, followed by Hermit Thrush. In contrast to last year, Yellow-rumped Warblers were not well represented, with only one report after the CBC period.

The very cold temperatures of early January forced out most of the waterfowl, although a few stuck it out until mid month. During the latter part of January and the first few days of February, there just weren't many birds in Iowa except Snow Buntings. Things began to change in early February, however, when mild temperatures resulted in some influx of waterfowl on the 6th, including Greater White-fronted Goose, Northern Pintail, and Ring-necked Duck. Icterids began to appear three or four days later, and there were three reports of Turkey Vulture before the 15th. By the third week of the month, waterfowl had occupied the southern part of the state, and by the end of the month had made it to some areas of northern Iowa.

The most reported species of the season was Northern Shrike; last season's most reported species, White-winged Crossbill, was unreported this year. The White-winged Crossbill was representative of the poor showing of winter finches. There



were no Red Crossbills or Evening Grosbeaks, only two Common Redpolls, and Pine Siskins were scarce.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

It was a bad season for good birds. The only accidental species reported was Eurasian Collared-Dove, a species that will probably soon become regular. Casual species reported include Mew Gull, Mountain Bluebird, and Bohemian Waxwing.

## SPECIES DATA (\* = documented); [] = record date

**Red-throated Loon:** A basic plumage bird was at Lock and Dam 18 on the Mississippi R. in Des Moines Co. on 10-19 Dec (\*JLF, \*THK)[record latest].

**Common Loon:** The peak count was 8 on 12 Dec at Rathbun Res. (RLC). Other reports include 1 on 4 Dec at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. (THK), 1 on 10-19 Dec at Lock and Dam 18 in Des Moines Co. (JLF), 2 on 13 Dec at West Okoboji (LAS), and 2 on 19 Dec on the Burlington CBC at Lock and Dam 18 (JLF-details).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** There were reports from about 14 locations; the only one from the northern half of the state was of 3 on 12 Dec at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). High counts include 14 on 6 Dec at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 22 on 19 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD), 6 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L. in Union Co. (SJD), and up to 7 wintering at Cedar L. in Linn Co. (THK, MCD, CE, JLF, MPr). Other probable overwintering birds include 1 on 11 Jan in the Green Bay Bottoms of Lee Co. (THK, JLF), and one on the Iowa R. in Iowa City from 12 Jan-4 Feb (MCD, CE).

**Horned Grebe:** This species is not reported every winter season so the nine reports this season were remarkable. The latest was a single from 19-24 Jan at Cedar L. (JLF, THK, MCD, CE)[record latest]. Other reports include 1 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB), 1 on 4 Dec at Pleasant Creek L. in Linn Co. (THK), 4 on 6 Dec at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 2 from 5-10 Dec at Hallett's Quarry near Ames in Story Co. (JJD, HZ), up to 6 on 7-19 Dec at West Okoboji (LAS, ETH), 1 on 19 Dec at the Burlington CBC (JLF), 1 from 5-20 Dec and 2 on 21 Dec at the S&G sandpits in Johnson Co. (MCD, JLF, THK).

**Eared Grebe:** Up to 2 birds were at Spirit L. in early December (ETH, LAS), with 1 lingering until 19 Dec for the Spirit Lake CBC (LAS-details). There were two other reports: 1 on 13 Dec at West Okoboji (LAS), and 1 on 19 Dec at the Red Rock CBC (\*SJD).

**Western Grebe:** Wrapping up a banner grebe season were single birds from 10-19 Dec at Lock and Dam 18 (JLF, \*THK)[second latest], and on 22 Dec on L. Panorama for the Jamaica CBC (\*SJD)[record latest].

**American White Pelican:** Of the four reports of lingering birds, the two latest were of injured birds: 1 on 27 Dec at L. Colchester in Warren Co. (SJD), and 1 on 28-29 Dec at Riverton W.A. (SJD). Apparently healthy birds included 3 on 13 Dec at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 17 on 19 Dec at the Red Rock CBC (AMJ). Remarkably early were 11 on 21 Feb at Rathbun Res. (RLC).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** There were eight reports of up to 8 birds in December, about twice the average of the past two winter seasons. The only January record was of 1 on 11 Jan at the Keokuk sewage treatment plant (THK, JLF). There were 2 on 21-23 Feb at the S&G sandpits near Iowa City (MCD).

**Great Blue Heron:** Reports from the northern half of the state were of singles on 11 Dec at Hawarden in Sioux Co. (JV), 1 on 12 Dec at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 1 on 6 Jan in Clayton Co. (CWi). January reports include 4 on 11 Jan at Keokuk (JLF, THK), 1 on 11 Jan near Burlington (THK), 1 on 10-27 Jan below the dam at Saylorville Res. (DT, MPr), and 1 on 23 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi). There were no February reports.

**Black-crowned Night-Heron:** There were two reports of this rare winter species; 2 imm. on 12 Dec at Port Neal in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and 1 imm on 19 Jan at Cedar L. (THK-details, JLF)[second latest]. This is the second straight year with two reports of this species, bringing the total number of winter season reports to six.

**Turkey Vulture:** Warm weather lured three into returning early: 1 on 10 Feb in Henry Co. (THK-details, JLF), 1 on 11 Feb in Tama Co. (MPr), and, very early for northern Iowa, 1 on 15 Feb in Allamakee Co. (DeC).

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** There were three December reports: 16 on 26 Dec at L. Panorama (SJD), 1 on 28 Dec at Sun Valley L. in Ringgold Co. (SJD), and 17 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L. in Union Co. (SJD). The only January report was of 1 or 2 wintering at Terra L. in Johnston, Polk Co.



- (BE, JTG, DT). Early February reports such as 1 on 6 Feb at Cone M. in Louisa Co. (PHA/RIA), 6 on 6 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 27 on 6 Feb in Lucas Co. (JSi), and 32 on 11 Feb at Otter Creek M. in Tama Co. (MPr) presumably involved early migrants. Peak February counts were of 161 on 21 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC), and 200 on 25 Feb at Cone M. (JLF).
- Snow Goose:** A bird on 22 Dec at Bays Branch W.A. in Guthrie Co. was banded on Wrangel Island, Russia (SJD). Other December reports include 250 on 20 Dec at Coralville Res. (THK), and 263 on 28 Dec at L. Icaria in Adams Co. (SJD). The January reports were of probable wintering birds: 1 or 2 through most of the period at Terra L (BE, DT, JTG, THK), and 2 on 26 Jan at Bays Branch (THK). The huge numbers poured in early to southwestern Iowa, such as the 100,000 on 14 Feb at Fomey L. and over Waubonsie S.P. (BKP/LJP), and 250,000 on 17 Feb at Riverton A. and Fomey L. (JJD). These latter birds departed after the 22 Feb snow (JJD). There were only three February reports of birds away from southwestern Iowa, the peak being 28 on 11 Feb at Otter Creek M. (MPr).
- Ross's Goose:** CBCs produced two of the four reports: 1 on 22 Dec at Bays Branch W.A. on the Jamaica CBC (SJD), and 3 on 2 Jan at De Soto N.W.R. The others were of 3 on 27 Dec at L. Icaria (SJD), and 1 ad. on 21-25 Feb at L. Macbride (JLF, THK). It is difficult to evaluate the winter status of this easily overlooked species.
- Canada Goose:** Jim Dinsmore noted a major southward movement of this species after the cold weather on 20 Dec. Peaks after that date include 300 on 23 Dec in Rock Valley in Sioux Co. in extreme northwestern Iowa (JV), 3,370 (including 370 small form) on 28 Dec at Three Mile L. (SJD), 500 on 1 Jan at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 300 on 16 Jan at Terra L. (JTG). Early migrants included 2,200 on 7 Feb at the S&G sandpits in Johnson Co. (MCD), and 3,000 on 14 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE). An albino bird was at Rush L. in Palo Alto Co. on 15 Feb (LAS).
- Mute Swan:** All: 1 ad. on 4 Dec at Brown Deer. L. in Johnson Co. (THK), and 1 ad. on 10 Feb south of Heron Bend A. in Lee Co. (THK-photos, JLF).
- Trumpeter Swan:** A pair with three young returned to Mason City during January and February for the fifth consecutive year (CRN). There were about 10 other reports of 1 to 8 birds from throughout the season. With the exception of the Mason City birds, including 7 on 30 Dec (CJF), all reports were from the southern half of the state.
- Tundra Swan:** Lingering at their traditional staging area were 500 on 2 Dec near Harper's Ferry on the Mississippi R. in Allamakee Co. (DeC), with one staying for the Yellow River S.F. CBC on 28 Dec (Darwin Koenig-details). Other reports include 12 until 10 Dec at Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), 4 on 17-19 Dec at Grover's L. in Dickinson Co. (DCH, ETh), 4 on 19 Dec at the Spirit Lake CBC (\*DCH), 4 on 20 Dec at George Wyth L. in Black Hawk Co. (\*Francis L. Moore), 2 imm. on 23-25 Dec at Hallett's Quarry near Ames (SJD-details, JJD), 1 on 26 Dec at the Amana CBC in Iowa Co. (Lenny Haldy-details), and 1 on 3-19 Jan on the Iowa R. near Iowa City (JLF).
- Wood Duck:** The most northerly report involved wintering: 1 at Rock Valley (Marty Eby fide SJD, JV). All other reports were from the southern half of the state. The peak count was 13 on 27 Dec at L. Colchester in Warren Co. (SJD). January to early February reports include 1 on 12 Jan at Buffalo in Scott Co. (THK, JLF), 2 on 27 Jan below Saylorville Res. (MPr), and 1 on 13 Feb in Clark Co. (JSi). Returning migrants were represented by 6 on 27 Feb at Hawkeye W.A. in Johnson Co. (CE), and 6 on 27 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Gadwall:** There were numerous reports from throughout the period, indicating that many birds wintered. Mid-winter reports from the northern half of the state include 2 on 23-31 Dec at Rock Valley (JV), 4 on 13 Jan and 2 on 29 Jan at Decorah (DeC), 2 on 3 Feb at the sewage treatment plant in Mason City (CJF), and 1 on 6 Feb at Dewey's Pasture in Palo Alto Co. (LAS). The first significant influx of migrants was 100 on 19 Feb at Cone M. (THK). Early for northwestern-Iowa was 1 on 24 Feb at Rock Valley (JV).
- American Wigeon:** There were four reports of up to 13 birds in December. January reports include 2 on 15-16 Jan at Red Rock Res. (THK, MPr), and 2 on 30 Jan at Terra L. (DT). Migrants followed the other dabblers into the state in mid to late February. There were 5 on 17 Feb at Cone M. (THK), and, by 27 Feb, 3 had made it to Rice L. in Winnebago Co. where they huddled at an aeration hole (CRN).
- American Black Duck:** There were six reports of 1 to 8 birds between 25 and 28 Dec, all in the southern half of the state. Mid-winter reports include up to 4 from 13-19 Jan on the Iowa R. in Iowa City (MCD), 3 on 16 Jan at Lansing in extreme northeastern Iowa (DeC), 1 on 31 Jan on the Mississippi R. in Lee Co. (RLC), 2 on 1 Feb in Dubuque (CW), 2 on 6 Feb at the MidAmerican Energy Ponds in Pottawattamie Co. (BKP/LJP), and 2 during January and February on the Winnebago R. near Mason City (CRN, CJF). Returning were 2 on 19 Feb at Cone M. (THK), and 8 there on 28 Feb (CE).
- Mallard:** Peak counts were 7,000 on 20 Dec at Coralville Res. (THK), 3,500 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L. (SJD), and 2,000 on 28 Dec at L. Icaria (SJD). This species will winter about anywhere there is

open water, such as the 100 at Rock Valley where the water is kept open artificially (JV, Marty Eby fide SJD).

**Blue-winged Teal:** A "slightly injured" ad. male in eclipse plumage on 21 Dec was at Montrose for the Keokuk CBC (\*SJD).

**Northern Shoveler:** The peak count by far was 115 on 13 Dec at Terra L. (BE), of which 1 wintered (JTG, BE, DT, MPr). The second high count was 27 on 21 Dec at S&G sandpits near Iowa City (MCD). From 3 to 5 on 17-27 Feb were on Swan L in Johnson Co. (JLF, THK, CE).

**Northern Pintail:** There were eight reports from late December to 24 Jan of from 1 to 7 birds, all from the southern half of the state. There were no reports from 25 Jan to 6 Feb when 24 were in Appanoose Co. (RLC). The peak count was 400 on 19 Feb at Cone M. (THK).

**Green-winged Teal:** Peak counts were 325 on 12 Dec and 180 on 17 Dec at Saylorville Res. (JJD), and 500 on 20 Dec at Coralville Res. (THK). Wintering were 2 at Rock Valley (Marty Eby fide SJD). January reports were both from northern Iowa; 1 male on 16 Jan at Brown's L in Woodbury Co. (BFH) and 1 male on 29 Jan at the Decorah trout hatchery (DeC). Migrants returned by mid-February to De Soto N.W.R. (JLF), and Cone M. (CE, THK) in southern Iowa, and by late February to Rock Valley (JV) and Silver L in Worth Co. (CRN) in northern Iowa.

**Canvasback:** Last winter season there were no reports between 6 Jan and 13 Feb. This year, there were seven reports during that period including 2,000 on 10 Feb at their usual spot on Pool 19 in Lee Co. (THK); the others were 200 on 11 Jan at the Green Bay Bottoms (THK), up to 18 on 15 Jan at Red Rock Res. (THK, PHA/RIA), 1 wintering at Saylorville Res. (BE, MPr, DT), 1 on 6 Feb on the Mississippi R. at Scott Co. (CE), 7 on 11 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), and 2 on 12 Feb at S&G sandpits (MCD). There were scattered migrants in southern Iowa in mid and late February.

**Redhead:** Aside from returning migrants, the latest report was also the most northerly; 9 on 20 Jan and 1 on 29 Jan at the Decorah trout hatchery were "the first winter records for Winneshiek Co." (DeC). Earlier were 3 on 28 Dec at Sun Valley L (SJD), 3 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L (SJD), 5 on 11 Jan in the Green Bay Bottoms (THK), and 1 on 12-18 Jan on the Iowa R. in Iowa City (THK, JLF, MCD). The first and the most returning migrants were 100 on 14 Feb at New L in Woodbury Co. (THK).

**Ring-necked Duck:** There were reports of 1-10 birds during December in Adams, Johnson, Ringgold, and Sioux counties. January records include 10 on 11 Jan in Lee Co. (JLF, THK), and one wintering at Saylorville Res. (DT, BE). The first returning birds were 8 on 6 Feb on the Mississippi R. in Scott Co. (CE) and 3 on 13 Feb in Johnson Co. (MCD).

**Greater Scaup:** All: 1 on 26 Dec at Snyder's Bend in Woodbury Co. (Jerry Probst fide BFH), 1 on 26 Dec-1 Jan at Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), 1 on 27 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD-details), 4 on 28 Dec at Sun Valley L (SJD-details), 2 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L (SJD-details), 4 on 11 Jan at Keokuk (THK-details, JLF), 1 on 11 Jan at Wever in Lee Co. (JLF), and 1 on 29 Jan-12 Feb at Mason City (JLW).

**Lesser Scaup:** The peak counts were 28 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L (SJD), and 24 on 15 Feb at Nobles Island in Allamakee Co. (DeC). Undoubtedly, many arrived with the Canvasbacks on 10 Feb on Pool 19. The only January reports were 1 on 1 Jan at Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), 2 on 2 Jan at Hallett's Quarry (Wolf Oesterreich fide HZ), and 1 on 11 Jan at Keokuk (JLF). Migrants were reported from around the state by the end of the period.

**Surf Scoter:** All: 2 females on 12 Dec at New L in Woodbury Co. first arrived in mid-November (BFH), 1 imm. on 2-18 Dec at Rock Valley (\*JV), and an ad. male and a female or imm. on 21 Dec on Pool 19 at the Keokuk CBC (SJD).

**White-winged Scoter:** The only report was of an ad. female on 27 Dec-16 Jan at Red Rock Res. (SJD-details, JLF, THK, MPr, PHA/RIA, AB).

**Black Scoter:** The only report was of 3 females or imm. on 21 Dec at Pool 19 on the Keokuk CBC (SJD-details, Aaron Brees-details).

**Oldsquaw:** A female was at the Keokuk CBC on 21 Dec (SJD). Another female wintered in the Saylorville Res./Big Creek L. area (SJD, PHA, RIA-photo, BE, DT, MPr). Others were an adult pair on 28 Dec at Sun Valley L. (SJD), 1 on 12 Jan through the period at Iowa City (MCD, JLF, THK, CE), 1 on 24 Jan at Cedar L (MCD, CE), and 2 on 6 Feb on the Mississippi R. at Scott Co. (CE).

**Bufflehead:** There were five reports of 1-4 birds between 16 Dec and 31 Jan, no reports from 1-11 Feb, then four reports of 1 or 2 birds through the end of the period. All reports were from southern Iowa.

**Common Goldeneye:** Aside from the 2,000 on 12 Jan near LeClaire in Scott Co. (THK), there were no large concentrations. The next highest counts were 72 on 27 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 26 on 14 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 61 on 25 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP). Birds made it to northern Iowa by the end of the period as illustrated by 4 on 27 Feb at Center L in Dickinson Co. (ETH), and 3 on 28 Feb at Rice L in Winnebago Co. (CRN).

- Hooded Merganser:** Peak counts include up to 103 on 9-17 Dec at Saylorville Res. (BE, JJD, BKP/LJP), 10 on 24 Jan at Cedar L (MCD), and 11 on 31 Jan at Montrose in Lee Co. (RLC). Early returning migrants were represented by 3 on 11 Feb at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 2 on 13 Feb at L. Ahquabi (JSI, PHA/RIA), and 4 on 14 Feb in Fremont Co. (BKP/LJP).
- Common Merganser:** As usual, the big numbers came from the reservoirs: 8,000 on Red Rock Res. on 27 Dec (SJD), and 2,200 on Saylorville Res. on 27 Feb (BE); 1,000 were on the Mississippi R. near Lansing on 15 Feb (DeC).
- Red-breasted Merganser:** There were five reports of 1 to 12 birds from 6-27 Dec, all in southern Iowa. The only midwinter report was of a female on 12 Jan in Scott Co. (JLF, THK). Returning migrants arrived on 27 Feb with 1 at Rice L (CRN), 3 at Saylorville Res. (BE), and 6 at S&G sandpits (MCD).
- Ruddy Duck:** Early peak counts were 40 on 2 Dec near Harper's Ferry in Allamakee Co. (DeC), 13 on 6 Dec at L. Manawa (BKP/LJP), 15 on 20 Dec at Hallett's Quarry (HZ), and 27 on 20 Dec at Coralville Res. (THK). The most northerly late December report was 2 on 23-31 Dec at Rock Valley (JV). Mid-winter reports include 27 on 28 Dec at Sun Valley L (SJD), 40 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L (SJD), 3 on 11 Jan at Keokuk (JLF), and 5 on 11 Jan at Green Bay Bottoms (JLF, THK). Migrants began to return with 1 on 21 Feb at Cedar L (THK), 3 on 27 Feb at Terra L (BE), and 1 on 27 Feb at S&G sandpits (MCD).
- Bald Eagle:** Pairs returned to nest sites on 31 Jan in Sac Co. (ETH), and on 4 Feb in Allamakee Co. Nesting was confirmed at the Allamakee Co. site on 7 Mar. (FL). This species is far less common away from major rivers and reservoirs, so 31 on 23 Feb that were dining on dead pigs near Rock Valley in extreme northwestern Iowa is interesting. There were several counts of more than 100 birds; the only one not directly on a major river or reservoir was at Cone M., with 125 on 15 Feb. (CE). A total of 1,776 Bald Eagles were counted on the midwinter survey, an all-time high and the third highest state total behind only Missouri and Illinois (Bruce Ehresman fide JJD).
- Northern Harrier:** Peak counts were 2 adults and an immature bird hunting together on 5 Dec at Chichaqua Greenbelt in Polk Co. (PHA/RIA), 8 on 28 Dec in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), and 20 on 6 Feb in southeastern Appanoose Co. (RLC). There were 14 other reports, all of 1 or 2 birds, from throughout the season and from all parts of the state.
- Sharp-shinned Hawk:** The peak count was 3 on 8 Feb in O'Brien Co. (ETH). There were scattered other reports across the state, often at feeders.
- Cooper's Hawk:** There were reports of single birds from 12 counties throughout the state and throughout the period. A few, such as 1 adult in Mason City on 13 Jan to 4 Feb were "feeder feeding" (CJF).
- Northern Goshawk:** There were 3 or 4 reports outside of CBCs: 1 on 26 Dec-8 Jan at Sioux City (BFH), 1 on 4 Jan at Kettleson Hogsback in Dickinson Co. (ETH-details), possible the same bird at Kettleson Hogsback through most of Feb (DCH), and 1 on 14 Feb at Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN-details).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** There were nine reports, somewhat above average. Noteworthy were two reports from northwestern Iowa; 2 on 6 Feb in the Des Moines River valley in Palo Alto Co. (LAS), and 1 adult on 13-14 Feb near Sioux Rapids in Buena Vista Co. (LAS, JLF, THK). Other reports include 1 imm. on 23 Jan in Jim Durban's yard in Marion, Linn Co. (THK, JLF), 1 ad. on 25 Jan in Allamakee Co. (THK), 1 imm. on 27-28 Jan in Allamakee Co. (JLF, FL), 1 imm. on 28 Jan in a second Allamakee Co. location (FL), 1 ad. on 3 Feb near Iowa City (JLF), 1 imm. on 5 Feb at Urbandale (BE), and 1 on 27-28 Feb in Lucas Co. (AYo).
- Red-tailed Hawk:** "Harlan's" Red-tails were found on 2-9 Dec in Hawarden (JV), 2 Feb in Iowa City (MCD), 8 Feb in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), and 2 on 15 Feb in O'Brien Co. (LAS). "Kriders" were reported on 9 Jan in Emmet Co. (DHe), and 10 Feb in Johnson Co. (THK). A near albino-bird was in Poweshiek Co. from 3 Dec-8 Feb (MPR). Dennis Carter reported that the 110 birds on the Decorah CBC was the record for 43 counts.
- Rough-legged Hawk:** There were the usual, widespread reports of this uncommon winter species.
- Golden Eagle:** Up to 5 (2 adults and 3 imm.) on 25 Jan-3 Feb were at the usual spot on County Road A-26 in Allamakee Co. (THK, JLF, FL), and another was at a second Allamakee Co. location on 28 Jan (FL). Other reports are of 1 adult on 2 Dec. at the Grammar Grove hawk watch in Marshall Co. (MPR-details), 1 adult on 12 Dec at Lake Icaria S.P. (PHA/RIA-details), 1 imm. on 20 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (Karl Jungbluth-details, Kevin Healy), 1 imm. on 31 Jan near Gillet Grove in Clay Co. (ETH-details), 1 imm. on 8 Feb. near Peterson in Buena Vista Co. (ETH-photo), 1 imm. on 13-15 Feb at Waterman Creek A. in O'Brien Co. (LAS), 1 subadult on 15 Feb at Red Rock Res. (AB), and 1 imm. on 24 Feb west of the state arboretum in Boone Co. (ILF, THK).
- Merlin:** All: 1 on 5 Dec at Sioux Center (JV), 1 *richardsonii* on 1 Jan at the Boone CBC (\*Michael Havlik), 1 on 3 Jan at Saylorville Res. (BE), 1 on 21 Jan at Hawarden (JV), 1 adult on 3 Feb at Iowa City (JLF), and 1 *richardsonii* on 14-15 Feb along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. (LAS).

- Peregrine Falcon:** The only report was of 1 on 20 Dec at Big Wall L. in Wright Co. (William Clark fide JJD).
- Prairie Falcon:** There were two reports: 1 on 2 Jan at De Soto N.W.R. for the CBC (Jerry Toll fide Neal Ratzlaff), and 1 on 7 Jan near Sioux Center (JV-details).
- Gray Partridge:** The most southerly report was of 1 on 21 Feb southeast of Madrid (MHa-details, AYO-details). The other reports include 9 during Dec/Jan in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN), 37 in 2 flocks on 16 Jan at Dan Green Slough in Clay Co. (LAS), 9 on 19 Jan at Sweet M. in Bremer Co. (JLF, THK), and 11 on 26 Jan in Fayette Co. (JLF, THK). After occupying most of the state in the 1980s, this species has clearly declined and retreated to the north.
- Wild Turkey:** There were several reports by Golden Eagle watchers in Allamakee Co.; Tom Kent found the most with 90 on 25 Jan.
- American Coot:** A single was thought to have wintered at Rock Valley in far northwestern Iowa (Marty Eby fide SJD), and one wintered on the Iowa R. at Iowa City (JLF, MCD). Another northerly report is of 6 on the rather late date of 24 Jan at the Decorah trout hatchery (Susan Anderson fide DeC). There were 12 other reports before 24 Jan, with peaks counts of 40 on 18 Dec at Cone M. (THK), 21 on 28 Dec at Sun Valley L. (SJD), and 32 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L. (SJD). Other than wintering birds, there were no reports between 25 Jan and 15 Feb, when 2 were at Cone M. (THK).
- Sandhill Crane:** For the second consecutive year, this species made a winter season appearance. Remarkable is a report of 7 (6 adults and 1 imm.) on 17 Dec that lingered at Otter Creek M. (MPR). An imm. on 20 Dec was in Dallas Co. for the Saylorville CBC (Maridel Jackson-details, Robert K. Myers).
- Black-bellied Plover:** All: 1 juv. on 2 Dec at Coralville Res. (THK-details, JLF)[record latest].
- Killdeer:** Hawkeye W.A. generated the most reports, with 11 birds from 5-17 Dec (JLF, THK) declining to 5 on 20 Dec (THK). Other December reports include 1 on 12 Dec at S&G sandpits (MCD) and 5 on 18 Dec at Cone M. (THK). There were no January reports. Early to mid-February reports include 1 on 8 Feb at Ahquabi S.P. (JSi), 1 on 15 Feb at Cone M. (CE), and 3 on 17 Feb at Cone M. (THK).
- Greater Yellowlegs:** There was 1 bird on 18 Dec at Cone M. (\*THK)[record latest].
- Least Sandpiper:** A juv. on 2-6 Dec at Coralville Res. was record latest by 4 days (\*THK, JLF)[record latest], and 1 on 3 Dec at Runnells W.A. (AB-details)[second latest].
- Dunlin:** There were 4 on 2 Dec and 6 on 5 Dec and 1 on 7 Dec at the Runnells Overlook in Warren Co. (PHA/RIA, AB)[second latest]. This is the second consecutive winter report for this late migrant.
- Common Snipe:** Peak December counts include 14 on 19 Dec at Roberts Creek L. in Warren Co. (SJD), and 6 on 26 Dec at Brown's L. in Woodbury Co. (BFH). Mid-winter reports are 2 on 3 Jan at Rathbun Res. (RLC), 1 on 11 Jan at Cone M. (THK), 3 on 6 Jan and 1 on 15 Jan at Pine Lake S.P. in Hardin Co. (MPR), 1 on 16 Jan at Brown's L. (BFH), 1 on 17 Jan near Iowa City (MCD, CE), and 4 on 17 Jan at Cone M. (CE, THK). Unusual are two mid-winter reports from Allamakee Co. in extreme northeastern Iowa: 1 on 31 Jan at the Decorah trout hatchery (DeC), and 1 on 4 Feb at Lansing W.A. (FL). The final report was of a single bird on 23 Feb in Johnson Co. (MCD).
- Franklin's Gull:** All: 2 on 2 Dec at Coralville Res. (JLF, THK), 1 first basic on 4 Dec at Red Rock Res. (AB), and 1 basic plumaged adult on 19-27 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD-details, MPR, CE). The adult bird at Red Rock was unusual because most Franklin's Gulls in Iowa in December are in alternate plumage (SJD).
- Bonaparte's Gull:** All: 234 on 5 Dec at Rathbun Res. (RLC), 79 on 13 Dec and 14 on 17 Jan at Big Creek L. in Polk Co. (BE, JJD), up to 20 on 10-19 Dec at Lock and Dam 18 (JLF, THK).
- Mew Gull:** All: 1 first basic on 20 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (SJD) and 1 first basic on 21 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (SJD).
- Ring-billed Gull:** As usual, the large counts came from the major reservoirs: 5,000 on 23 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD) and 2,700 on 26 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Mid-winter reports from northern Iowa were 1 on 10 Jan flying over Mason City (CRN), and 1 on 1 Feb at Dubuque (CWi). Returning migrants were represented by 1,000 on 24 Feb at Red Rock Res. (THK), and 550 on 27 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE).
- Herring Gull:** Peak counts were 690 on 23 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD), and 300 on 26 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD). Late winter reports were 2 on 11 Jan at Iowa City (THK), 1 on 1 Feb at Dubuque (CWi), and 7 on 27 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE).
- Thayer's Gull:** All: 1 first basic on 2 Dec at Lock and Dam 15 in Scott Co. (JLF), 1 adult on 19 Dec at Red Rock Res. (SJD), up to 2 adults on 20-22 Dec at Saylorville Res. (SJD), 1 first basic on 21 Dec at the Keokuk CBC (SJD), 1 adult on 26 Dec at Johnston in Polk Co. (SJD), 1 adult (JLF, CE) and 1 first basic (MPR-details, JLF, CE, THK) on 5-7 Feb at Lock and Dam 15, and 1 second basic on 27 Feb at Saylorville Res. (BE).

- Lesser Black-backed Gull:** There were two reports: 1 adult on 27 Dec below Lock and Dam 16 in Muscatine Co. (\*Brian Blevins), and 1 first basic on 10 Feb at Lock and Dam 19 at Keokuk (JLF, THK).
- Glaucous Gull:** The only report was of 1 first basic on 6-7 Feb at Davenport (MPR, PHA/RIA, JLF, THK).
- Great Black-backed Gull:** There were two reports: 1 on 27 Dec on the Muscatine CBC (\*Gerald White, \*Brian Blevins), and 1 first basic on 31 Jan - 6 Feb at Davenport (\*MPR, JLF, THK).
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** 1 imm. was at Ottumwa on 2-3 Dec (RIA-photos, PHA, JLF).
- Eurasian Collared-Dove:** The small group at Grinnell in Poweshiek Co. is evidently growing, with 10 on 3 Dec (JLF); up to 3 remained through the period (\*JLF, MPR-details, THK).
- Mourning Dove:** There were 42 on 11 Jan at an Ames feeder, the number peaking during the coldest weather. Calling was noted on 17 Feb (JJD).
- Snowy Owl:** This season produced 4 birds: 1 on 10 Dec w. of Ames (JJD, RIA-photos, PHA, HZ), 1 on 31 Dec near May City in Osceola Co. (Marty Eby fide SJD), 1 on 3 Jan near Rock Valley (Marty Eby fide SJD), and 1 in "mid-January" near Corwith in Kossuth Co. (Mike Cruise-details fide MCK).
- Barred Owl:** There was one report from northwestern Iowa: 1 on 9 Jan in Buena Vista Co. (LAS).
- Long-eared Owl:** Peak counts were 6 on 5 Dec at Rathbun Res. (RLC), 8 on 22 Dec at Bays Branch W.A. (SJD), 6 on 1 Jan on the Des Moines R. in Boone Co. (MPR), 10 on 7 Feb near the Iowa Arboretum in Boone Co. (KJ), and 12 on 13 Feb in two roosts at Big Creek S.P. (DT). The other seven reports of from 1-3 birds came from the southern half of Iowa except for 1 on 23 Feb at Bacon Creek P. in Woodbury Co. (BFH).
- Short-eared Owl:** The most reported were 10 on 16 Feb in Wayne Co. (AB), and up to 3 on 7-15 Jan in Jefferson Co. (JLF). The remaining 11 reports, all of 1 or 2 birds, came from the southern half of the state except for 1 on 30 Jan just across the halfway line at Breda in Carroll Co. (ETH).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl:** Of the 5 reports, 3 are from Johnson Co.; up to 2 on 30 Dec-21 Feb at the Hawkeye W.A., (JLF, THK, MCD, CE), 1 on 22 Feb at Hickory Hill P. in Iowa City (JLF), and 1 on 28 Feb at Kent P. in Johnson Co. (MCD, CE). The others are 1 on 3 Jan at Rathbun Res. (RLC), and 1 on 30 Jan-4 Feb at Hooper G.A. in Warren Co. (JSi, AB).
- Belted Kingfisher:** There were 3 reports from northeastern Iowa where the presence of open, spring-fed streams entice them to winter (CWi, DeC). The only report from elsewhere in northern Iowa was 2 males on 15 Feb in O'Brien Co. (LAS).
- Red-headed Woodpecker:** There are 3 mid-winter reports from northern Iowa: 2 wintering at Decorah (DeC), 1 wintering at Mason City (CRN, CJF), and 1 on 6 Feb in Clay Co. (LAS).
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** All: 1 on 19 Dec at Nevada (HZ), 1 on 20 Dec at Spencer (LAS), 1 on 1 Jan at Des Moines (PHA/RIA), and 1 on 17 Jan at Cone M. (CE).
- Northern Flicker:** A "red-shafted" form was seen on 7 Feb in Clay Co. (LAS).
- Pileated Woodpecker:** Birds away from the more expected southeastern Iowa locations were 1 on 2 Dec at Grammar Grove A. in Marshall Co. (MPR), 1 on 16 Jan at Ft. Defiance S.P. in Emmet Co. (DHe), 1 on 21 Feb near Boone (KJ), and 1 on 25 Feb at Otter Creek M. (MPR).
- Eastern Phoebe:** The reports were both from CBCs: 1 on 19 Dec at Burlington (JLF-details), and 1 on 19 Dec at Red Rock (Mike Overton-details, AMJ).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** The only report was of 1 on 15 Jan at Mahaska Co. (THK).
- Northern Shrike:** This was the most reported species of the season, with reports from 21 counties. Of these, only 4 were from the bottom 3 tiers: 1 on 18 Dec-3 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 on 29 Dec in Fremont Co. (SJD), 1 on 18 Jan in Madison Co. (PHA/RIA), and 1 on 24 Jan in Warren Co. (JSi). Most of the birds were found in the northwest and north-central part of the state; there were only 3 reports from the northeastern quadrant.
- American Crow:** The roost at Ames swelled to 14,200 on 19 Dec, the highest count to date (JJD).
- Horned Lark:** Almost all of the reports are from the first few days of January, such as 60 on 3 Jan in Polk Co. (BE), 4,000 on 3 Jan in 10 southern Iowa counties (DCD), 200 on 6 Jan in Poweshiek Co. (THK), and 100 on 8 Jan in Johnson Co. (MCD). Tom Kent noted that although many were present through January, 1 on 10 Feb was the only one he found in a day of driving around southeastern Iowa, which is the opposite of the usual pattern.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch:** All: 1 through the season near Rock Falls (CRN, CJF), 1 on 6 Dec at Sioux Center (JV), 1 on 6 Jan at Kent P. (JLF, THK), 3 on 5 Feb at Stephen's S.F. in Lucas Co. (AB), 2 on 9 and 21 Feb at Ledges S.P. (KJ), 1 on 16 Jan at Brown's L. (BFH), 2 on 17 Jan at Jester P., (BE), and 1 on 9 Feb at Iowa Falls (MPR).
- Brown Creeper:** There were two reports of wintering in extreme northwestern Iowa: 2 in Woodbury Co. (BFH), and "several" in Sioux Co. (JV).
- Carolina Wren:** The peak count by far was 11 on 21 Dec on River Road between Keokuk and Montrose on the Keokuk CBC (SJD). The most northwesterly was 1 on 9 Jan at Spirit L. (ETH),



- well away from its usual range. Other reports away from the expected southeastern Iowa range include 1 on 1-22 Dec in Allamakee Co. (DeC), 2 on 20 Dec at the Saylorville CBC (SJD), 1 on 25 Jan at Des Moines, (PHA/RIA), and 1 on 29 Dec at Riverton W.A. (SJD).
- Winter Wren:** All: 1 on 10 Dec in Woodbury Co. (BFH), 1 on 12 Dec at Pine Lake S.P. in Hardin Co. (MPR), 3 on 19 Dec at Burlington (JLF), 1 on 26 Dec in Winneshiek Co. (CWi), 1 on 31 Dec near Ames (Kevin Healy fide HZ), 1 on 9 Jan in Ann Johnson's Warren Co. garage (AMJ), 1 on 11 Jan in Burlington (JLF, THK), and 1 on 7 Feb at Woodland Mounds Preserve in Warren Co. (JSi).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** There were none after the CBC period. The Yellow River CBC had its record high count with 26 on 26 Dec (DeC).
- Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** The Iowa City CBC on 20 Dec produced the only report (Ray Davenport-photos fide THK, CE).
- Eastern Bluebird:** Up to 13 were found on 8-14 Feb at Waterman Creek A. by observers looking for the Mountain Bluebird (LAS, THK); one was singing by 28 Feb (LAS). The only other reports of more than 1 or 2 birds are of 9 on 28 Dec at Three Mile L. (SJD), 4 on 9 Jan in Clay Co. (LAS), 3 on 10 Jan in Clarke Co. (JSi), and 3 on 15 Feb in Monona Co. (THK).
- Mountain Bluebird:** A female on 7-21 Feb was at Waterman Creek A. in O'Brien Co. (\*LAS, \*THK-photos, \*JLP-photo, \*ETH-photo).
- Hermit Thrush:** There were four reports: 1 on 21 Dec at the Knight's feeder in Iowa City (THK), 1 on 26 Dec at Brown's L. (BFH), 1 on 28 Dec at Fomey L. (SJD-details), and 1 on 24 Jan at Ahquabi S.P. (JSi).
- American Robin:** Interestingly, the reports of large numbers came from northern Iowa. Jim Fuller noted the presence of hundreds in areas with cedar berries, such as in Allamakee Co., the Little Sioux R. valley, and the Loess Hills. Peak counts included 100 on 26 Dec in Carroll Co. (ETH) 100 on 12 Jan in Muscatine Co. (THK), up to 750 in late January in the Upper Iowa R. valley in Allamakee Co. (FL, THK), up to 200 on 8 Feb in O'Brien Co. (LAS, ETH), 230 on 21 Feb near Boone (KJ), and 60 on 24 Feb at Ames (Bonnie Bowen fide JJD). These counts are much greater than winter counts from the past two years.
- Northern Mockingbird:** The only report was of 1 on 7 Feb in southern Monroe Co. in the southern part of the state (RLC).
- Brown Thrasher:** An above-average year with 5 reports: 1 on 13 Dec at Saylorville Res. (BE), 1 on 19 Dec at Sioux Center (JV), 1 on 22 Dec at Newport in Johnson Co. (JLF, THK), 1 at a Madrid feeder on 2 Jan (MHA, AYO) and 24 Feb (JLF, THK), and 1 on 5-6 Jan at Swan L.
- American Pipit:** A bird was well described at Lake Ahquabi S.P. on 1 Jan. (\*JSi)[record latest].
- Bohemian Waxwing:** A single bird was at Grinnell on 6 Jan (\*JLF, \*THK).
- Cedar Waxwing:** Peak counts include 142 on 16 Jan at Big Creek S.P. (DT), flocks of 50+ at Sioux Center in Feb (JV), 400 on 8 Feb in O'Brien Co. (ETH), and 170 on 15 Feb in O'Brien Co. (LAS).
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The only report after the CBC period was of 1 on 27 Feb at Mason City in northern Iowa (CJF).
- Common Yellowthroat:** An imm. male on 29 Dec was at Riverton W.A. for the CBC (\*SJD).
- Spotted Towhee:** All: 1 on 6 Dec at Rolling Thunder Prairie in Warren Co. (JSi), 1 on 16 Dec-6 Jan at Sioux Center (JV), 1 on 20 Dec-8 Jan at Coralville Res. (THK, CE-details, JLF), 1 on 20 Dec-6 Jan in Boone Co. (Gary Hightshoe fide JJD), 1 on 28 Dec-8 Jan at Swan L. in Johnson Co. (JLF, THK), and 1 on 4 Jan near Mason City (CRN, CJF). The 6 birds reported this season compares to 2 during the 97-98 season and 3 during the 96-97 season.
- Eastern Towhee:** There were no reports.
- White-throated Sparrow:** The most northerly reports were of wintering birds: 1 in Buena Vista Co. (LAS), 1 in Decorah (Susan Anderson fide DeC), and 1 at Dorchester in Allamakee Co. (Jill Stephenson fide DeC). Other reports after the CBC period include 1 wintering at Ames (JJD), up to 7 on 9 Jan at Urbandale (BE), 2 on 13 Jan at Hawkeye W.A. (MCD), and 1 on 17 Jan at Cone M. (CE, MCD).
- Fox Sparrow:** All: 1 from mid Dec through Jan in Winneshiek Co. (Larry Reis fide DeC), 1 on 22 Dec at Bays Branch W.A. on the Jamaica CBC (RLC), 1 on 11 Jan at Cone M. (JLF, THK), 1 on 27 Jan in Allamakee Co. (JLF), and 1 on 11 Feb at Swan L. (JLF).
- Song Sparrow:** There were 4 reports from the northern half of the state: 1 through the period at Mason City (CRN), 1 on 26 Dec in Carroll Co. (ETH), 1 on 16 Jan in Buena Vista Co. (LAS), and 3 on 28 Jan in Allamakee Co. (FL).
- Swamp Sparrow:** There was 1 on 11 Jan at Cone M. (JLF).
- Harris's Sparrow:** All were roughly from western Iowa: 1 through the period at Sioux Center (JV), 2 on 1 Jan at Union in Hardin Co. (MPR), 2 in mid Jan at Algona (MCK), 6 on 9 Jan at Urbandale (BE), and 2 on 15 Feb at De Soto N.W.R. (THK).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** All: 1 on 4 Jan in Iowa City (THK), 20 on 11 Jan at Cone M. (THK) and 2 there on 17 Jan (CE), and 1 on 6 Feb in Appanoose Co. (RLC).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** The following oddballs were reported: 1 of the Oregon type on 7 Dec in Mason City (JLW), another on 20 Dec in Sioux Center (JV), and a third on 25 Dec through the period at Ames (SJD, JJD), 4 "of undetermined western origin" on 24 Jan in Algona (MCK), and 1 of the Pink-sided type on 27 Jan at Algona (MCK).

**Lapland Longspur:** High counts were 50 on 23 Dec at Ireton in Sioux Co. (JV), 50 on 3 Jan in Dickinson Co. (ETH), 150 on 13 Jan in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), several flocks of 200 on 3 Feb and 14 Feb near Sioux Center (JV), 500 on 23 Feb in Cerro Gordo Co. (CRN), and 100 on 24 Feb in Cerro Gordo Co. (JLW). Reports were pretty evenly distributed throughout the period except for a 2 week gap between mid January and early February.

**Snow Bunting:** The most southerly were 1 on 5-22 Dec at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and 1 on 11 Feb in Warren Co. (AMJ). The high count by far was of 1,000 on 24 Jan and 1 Feb in Emmet Co. (DHe). Reports of more than 1 or 2 include 12 on 2 Dec at Coralville Res (JLF) and 10 there on 1 Jan (THK), 5 on 3 Jan in Polk Co. (BE), 30 on 3 Jan in Dickinson Co. (ETH), flocks of up to 30 on 5 Jan in Sioux and Lyon counties (JV), 250 on 26 Jan in Kossuth Co. (RCe), and 450 on 26 Jan in Winnebago Co. (RCe).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** By far the peak count was 1,500 on 28 Dec in Fremont Co. (SJD), a county where this species sometimes forms winter roosts. Reports from northern Iowa include 1 on 26 Dec at Dickinson Co. (ETH), 13 on 16 Jan in Palo Alto Co. (LAS), 10 on 16 Jan at Brown's L. (BFH), 3 on 28 Jan in Allamakee Co. (FL), 3 on 29 Jan-5 Feb in Mason City (CRN), and 2 on 7 Feb at Rock Falls (JLW). Flocks on 8 Feb in O'Brien Co. (ETH), and 10 Feb in Johnson Co. (THK) were probably migrants.

**Meadowlark sp.:** All: 3 on Jan near Luther (HZ), 2 on 3 Jan in Mahaska Co. (DCD), 6 on 17 Jan in Johnson Co. (MCD), 8 on 24 Jan at Sioux City (BFH), and 6 on 1 Feb in Emmet Co. (DHe).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** Two were identified by voice: 1 on 27 Dec at Red Rock Res. (CE), and 1 on 15 Feb at Cone M. (CE). These probably represented late departing and early returning migrants.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** A male on 2 Jan was at De Soto N.W.R. for the CBC (Neal Ratzlaff-details).

**Rusty Blackbird:** All: 1 on Dec 30-31 near Boone (KJ), 8 on 3 Jan in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 1 on 11 Jan at Cone M. (JLF, THK), 1 on 11-14 Jan at Burt in Kossuth Co. (Irma Parsons-photo fide MCK), 1 on 21 Jan in Sioux Center (JV), 3 on 7 Feb at Waterman Creek A. (LAS), and 5 on 10 Feb near Rock Falls (JLW).

**Common Grackle:** Wintering in northwestern Iowa were 6 on 12 Jan through the period at Sioux Center (JV). Probable early migrants were 1 on 9 Feb in Cass Co. (MAP), and 3 on 10 Feb at 2 Lee Co. locations (THK).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** The most northerly were 4 on 1 Jan in Hardin Co. (MPr). There were four other reports after the CBC period of 1 or 2 birds, all in the southern half Iowa.

**Purple Finch:** All: up to 3 from 25 Dec to 23 Jan near Boone (KJ), 1 on 11 Jan at Burlington (JLF, THK), 5 on 28 Jan in Allamakee Co. (FL), 1 on 5 Feb in Sioux Center (JV), and 1 on 6 Feb in Dickinson Co. (ETH). I don't know if people are not reporting this species, or if there are not as many the state as there used to be. More consistent reporting would be helpful.

**House Finch:** There were 67 on 1 Jan in Urbandale (BE).

**Red Crossbill:** None reported.

**White-winged Crossbill:** The most commonly reported species of the 1997-98 winter season was unreported this season.

**Common Redpoll:** The Decorah CBC produced the only report, 2 on 26 Dec.

**Pine Siskin:** There were 10 reports from throughout the season and around the state. Reports of more than 2 or 3 include 40 on 2 Dec at Fairmont Cemetery in Davenport (JLF), 40 on 19 Dec at Sacred Heart Cemetery in Burlington (JLF), 11 on 20 Dec through the period in Spencer (LAS), 12 in mid Jan in Sioux Center (JV), 10 on 24 Jan near Boone (KJ), and 8 on 9 Feb at Iowa Falls in Hardin Co. (MPr).

**Evening Grosbeak:** None reported.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** Up to 8 were seen in mid February at the S&G sandpits in east Lucas Township in Johnson Co. (MCD, THK) and another was found on a nearby road (MCD, CE). This apparent small population is significant in two ways; it is a fifth county where this species probably nests, and it is Iowa's first population away from the floodplain of the Mississippi River. In western Illinois, this species nests on hillsides away from the river. This report suggests that it is now moving inland in Iowa. Possibly supporting this hypothesis is another report, 1 on 19 Feb at Cone M. (THK), also away from the Mississippi River floodplain.



## EXOTICS

**Mandarin Duck:** A male on 18-20 Jan on the Iowa R. at Iowa City was described by Jim Fuller as "the most beautiful bird I've ever seen." Perhaps sometimes, even non-countable birds are worth chasing.

## OBSERVERS

Pam H. Allen (PHA), Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), Des Moines; Aaron Brees (AB), Indianola; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Robert I. Cecil (RIC) Des Moines; (Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Stephen J. Dinsmore (SJD), Ft. Collins CO.; Michael C. Dooley (MCD), Iowa City; Dan C. Dorrance (DCD), Rock Island, IL; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Urbandale; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Jacob T. Gilliam (JTG), Norwalk; Douglas C. Harr (DCH), Larchwood; Mike Havlik (MHa), Madrid; Dennis Henrickson (DHe), Estherville; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE; Ann M. Johnson (AMJ) Norwalk; Karl Jungbluth (KJ), Boone; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Fred Leshner (FL), LaCrosse, WI; Curt R. Nelson (CRN), Mason City; Marietta A. Petersen (MAP), Walnut; Mark Proescholdt (MPR), Liscomb; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Jan L. Walter (JLW), Mason City; Charles Winterwood (CW), Dubuque; Amy Yoakum (AYo), Madrid; and Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada.

## COMMENT

Thanks to all the observers who contributed reports, and especially those who got their reports in a few days early - it really helps with meeting deadlines. Thanks also to Mike Havlik, Karl Jungbluth, Charles Winterwood, and Amy Yoakum for submitting their first report. We hope to continue to hear from you. And finally, thanks also to those who had a chance to review the draft, and especially to John Cecil for checking data. Perhaps in the future, the internet could become a useful tool in enabling contributors to submit reports and to check species data for accuracy prior to publication.

In case you wonder where your Turkey Vulture or Northern Shrike report is, there have been changes in the Official Checklist of Iowa Birds that affect the taxonomical order of these and other species. The Summer 1998 *Iowa Bird Life* has the new checklist, and new field checklists are now available.

*1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311*

# IOWA AND MINNESOTA BIRD LISTS COMPARED

THOMAS H. KENT

The *Checklist of the Birds of Minnesota* by the Minnesota Ornithological Records Committee, 1 January 1999, which was distributed to members of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union, provides the opportunity to compare Minnesota species with those of Iowa (see Kent, T. H. 1998. Official Checklist of Iowa Birds 1998 Edition, *Iowa Bird Life* 68:73-84). Both lists are current through 1998.

Iowa and Minnesota use the same criteria for species status (Regular, Casual, Accidental, Extirpated, Extinct), but Minnesota adds a subclass for birds of uncertain origin (Fulvous Whistling-Duck, Crested Caracara, Pygmy Nuthatch). The 1996 Edition of the Iowa Checklist had Fulvous Whistling-Duck in this category also, but we decided to abandon this subclass. The origin of Minnesota's Pygmy Nuthatch is known—it was coaxed across the border from North Dakota. What is uncertain is whether it should be counted, although it meets the guidelines of the American Birding Association.

Excluding the three species of uncertain origin, the Minnesota list comprises 420 species compared to 401 for Iowa. Minnesota has 34 species not on the Iowa list and Iowa has 14 species (excluding Pygmy Nuthatch) not on the Minnesota list. One would expect Minnesota to have more northern and Eurasian species (10: Yellow-billed Loon, Willow Ptarmigan, Rock Ptarmigan, Purple Sandpiper, Dovekie, Boreal Owl, Three-toed Woodpecker, Northern Wheatear, Fieldfare, Brambling) than Iowa (4: Bean Goose, Slaty-backed Gull, Thick-billed Murre, Long-billed Murrelet) and Iowa to have more southern species (8: Brown Pelican, Anhinga, Reddish Egret, Roseate Spoonbill, Wood Stork, Black Vulture, Carolina Parakeet, Fish Crow) than Minnesota (4: Wilson's Plover, Sandwich Tern, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Painted Bunting). Minnesota, however, leads most in Western species (18: Glaucous-winged Gull, Band-tailed Pigeon, Common Poorwill, Magnificent Hummingbird, Anna's Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Williamson's Sapsucker, Black Phoebe, Ash-throated Flycatcher, Violet-green Swallow, American Dipper, Hermit Warbler, Painted Redstart, Brewer's Sparrow, Baird's Sparrow, McCown's Longspur, Scott's Oriole, Cassin's Finch) compared to Iowa (2: Western Flycatcher species, Pinyon Jay). Only Minnesota's Kirtland's Warbler is here classified as an eastern species and Minnesota's Arctic Tern could have deviated from east or west in its long migration route.

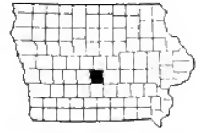
Why should Minnesota have more species than Iowa? Northern Minnesota differs more in habitat from northern Iowa than does southern Minnesota from southern Iowa. The extension of the Great Plains into western Minnesota explains species such as McCown's Longspur and Baird's Sparrow. Minnesota's concentration of observers near good vagrant traps such as Duluth has no counterpart in Iowa. Minnesota also has more birders than Iowa. As the number of birders has increased in Iowa over the last 30 years, the number of new species has increased. Will Iowa gain species on Minnesota with more birding effort? It would appear that we should because we have a greater number of potential species to find.

211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246

# AMAZILIA HUMMINGBIRD IN DES MOINES

CAROLE STOLZ, JANE CLARK, THOMAS H. KENT, AND ANN JOHNSON

On or about 2 September 1998, Don Stolz saw an unusual bird at the hummingbird feeder near his house in Des Moines. It was unlike any other bird that he had seen before. He and Carole Stolz studied the bird carefully and, based on its long, thin bill and overall coloration, decided that it was a Buff-bellied Hummingbird. The bird spent most of its time in their yard, perching in a tree between visits to the hummingbird feeder. After about 10 days, they called Jane Clark of the Des Moines Audubon Society to tell her about this unusual sighting. Jane requested permission to notify other birders about this sighting, and Don and Carole Stolz agreed. Jane then reported the sighting to Eugene and Eloise Armstrong and Pam and Reid Allen. Over the next several weeks, about 150 birders visited the Stolz's yard to see this hummingbird. Included were a number of people who were in Des Moines on 11-13 September for the fall Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting.



During the fall Iowa Ornithologists' Union meeting, a number of people noticed that although the bird seemed to resemble a Buff-bellied Hummingbird, there were a few characteristics that didn't quite match that species. In particular, the bird had a white spot behind the eye, the cinnamon on the belly was brighter and extended farther up the breast than on Buff-bellied Hummingbird, the tail, back, and rump were rufous, and there was a distinct central white patch between the breast and throat. At the I.O.U. meeting and later, there was extensive discussion about the identification of this bird as various people searched numerous field guides and other sources to see if there was another species that better fit the description of the bird. In addition, several photographs of this bird were posted on the Internet so that other bird experts around the country could examine it and add their opinion. This attention soon focused on the *Amazilia* Hummingbird, a species found in western South America. Part of this was prompted by a photo in *Field Notes* (52:144, 1998) of a bird seen in Madera Canyon, Arizona, on 1 September 1997. That bird seemed to match our bird and had caused a similar round of inquiries in 1997. That bird was eventually identified as an *Amazilia* Hummingbird but it has been suggested that the location was a hoax.

Experts Louis Bevier (Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia) and Van Remsen (Louisiana State University) examined the photos and considered the bird to be of the nominate subspecies, *Amazilia amazilia amazilia* based on the size of the white breast patch. This subspecies is normally found near Lima, Peru. According to Matt Rosen of the Des Moines Botanical Center, two hummingbirds had been purchased from the West Coast six to eight years ago. Tim Schantz and Sharon and Dick Stilwell had seen *Amazilia* hummingbirds at the center about two years ago. The records of what had been purchased by the Botanical Center could not be located. An employee of the Botanical Center said that the last hummingbird disappeared in late August of 1998. The timing and the identification as *Amazilia* Hummingbird strongly suggest that the feeder bird had escaped from the Botanical Center.

The bird continued to visit the feeder through October and November. Before capturing the hummingbird, Clark consulted with hummingbird experts in California, Arizona, Wisconsin, Louisiana, and Kansas. Since this bird was from Peru, migratory bird laws did not apply, but she did receive a temporary permit from the Iowa DNR to capture and transport the bird. She also obtained Nektar Plus, a supplemental food, to help the bird maintain the correct nutritional level in its diet.

Jackie Peers, at whose house the hummingbird spent most of its time when it wasn't at the Stolz house a block away, was very helpful and bleached the feeders and changed the food twice a day for at least two weeks.

Although capturing the bird with a mist net was tried several times by licensed banders, rainy weather and wind led to unsuccessful attempts. Clark and her husband built two traps, and David Spreadbury remodeled one of them, and rigged the trigger on both traps. Feeders at both houses were kept filled, and the bird was captured on 22 November 1998 at the home of Don and Carole Stolz. It was a nerve wracking experience, but the bird quickly acclimated to the cage and evidently didn't damage its feathers. The cage was covered with a sheet to help calm the bird and later was transported in it to Clark's home. Later that day, someone from the Des Moines Blank Park Zoo helped transfer the bird to another cage.

The Clarks drove to southern Kansas the next day and delivered the bird to Jan Hall, a licensed hummingbird bander and rehabilitator, with experience handling 1,000 hummingbirds. All the paper work, laws, and regulations were followed. The bird was hungry and ate immediately while she held it. Clark had provided two feeders in the last cage, but they must not have been attractive enough to the bird. Jan had a large cage prepared (3 feet square and 4 feet tall), with two feeders of Nektar Plus, plants surrounding the cage inside and out, perches, and grow lights for warmth.

For Thanksgiving, the hummingbird feasted on fruit flies. After some weeks of searching for a permanent home for the bird, the Sedgwick County Zoo in Kansas agreed to take the bird. First, it had to be in quarantine for a month, and then in a "howdy cage" (bigger cage made for acclimation) inside the exhibit. After a week of acclimation it was released into a huge walk-through rainforest with about 150 other birds of 60 different species. It receives fresh nectar twice a day and there is a constant supply of fruit flies available as well as other insects that may occur in the jungle. The exhibit consists of 28,000 square feet on two levels with winding paths, ponds and waterfalls and is one of the best rainforest exhibits in the country. The exhibit is 26 years old so the vegetation is very lush and established. The zoo is trying to locate a mate for him.

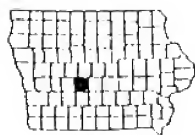
This was one of the most interesting challenges of bird identification that Iowa birders have encountered. Once identified, it was a further challenge to capture the bird, find a place that would care for it, and handle the paperwork involved in the transfer. It was only through the cooperative effort of many people that all of this was accomplished. Among the many people who helped in this effort were Don Stolz, Tim Schantz, Sharon and Dick Stilwell, Louis Bevier, Van Remsen, Jan Hall, Jim and Jackie Peers, David Spreadbury, Barb Miller, Dick Kremer, Jo Hudson, Leyria Walters, Amy Offenburger, Mike Overton, Jim Clark, Rick Hollis, Jim Fuller, Jim Sinclair, Rob and Karen Bradley, Beth Brown, USFWS, Iowa DNR, and all of the people from out of state who offered ideas and support. Without all of their efforts, this story would not have been possible.

*512 SW. 60th Street, Des Moines, IA 50312 (Stolz), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325 (Clark), 211 Richards Street, Iowa City, IA 52246 (Kent), and 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211 (Johnson). (Editor's note: Carole Stolz died on 22 June 1999).*

## AN IOWA WINTER MARSH WREN

JIM SINCLAIR

On 21 December 1997, Rick Trieff and I were birding the Brenton Slough area in northeastern Dallas County as part of the 1997 Saylorville Christmas Bird Count. At about 8 a.m., while searching a large cattail marsh, I heard the call note of a Marsh Wren. Despite insecure ice conditions, we spent the next 20 minutes attempting to approach the bird to confirm our initial identification.



In spite of our determined effort, the bird remained elusive and gave us only momentary glimpses. However, the distinctive call note was heard at least six times. What was seen was a small bird with a predominantly dark brown head, mantle, and tail. The breast and throat were white, and the flanks were a lighter brown than the mantle. One quick look at the sitting bird confirmed a wren-like posture including its tail cocked almost straight up.

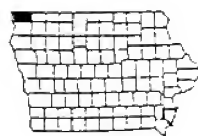
Prior to 1997, Marsh Wrens had been found three times in Iowa during winter. All three of the reports were from Christmas Bird Counts (Kent and Dinsmore, *Birds in Iowa*, 1996). Besides this account, one other Marsh Wren record was submitted for the 1997 Christmas Bird Count season (S. Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 68:42-54, 1998). It is my belief that persistent efforts by Christmas Bird Count participants in the proper habitat will be rewarded with winter records of Marsh Wrens on a regular basis.

810 North B Street, Indianola, IA 50125

## BURROWING OWL NEST IN LYON COUNTY

DOUG HARR

On Sunday, 30 August 1998, I received a call from Dolly Zangger, a fellow birder from Larchwood. She reported observing a Burrowing Owl at a probable nest site three miles east of Larchwood. Having trouble locating the site on my first attempt, I got fresh instructions from Dolly and was able to find the owl.



I encountered a single owl in apparent juvenal plumage, perched on a fence post between the county road and an adjacent cornfield. As is typical with Burrowing Owls, the individual showed little fear and continued perching while I observed it and took several photos from the car window. Although not obvious in the photos, with binoculars the remains of a few pinfeathers could be observed on the bird's crown, nape, and back, indicating it was a young-of-the-year. I saw no evidence of other owls on this or subsequent visits. Dolly Zangger, however, reports that while she never saw more than one bird on her several visits to the site, she observed what she was certain was an adult owl on one visit. The birds apparently vacated the site about a week after the first observations and were not seen again. According to *The Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas* (Jackson et al., Univ. Iowa Press, 1996), nest dispersal usually occurs in early September, and this time period coincides with our observations at the Larchwood site.

A nest burrow was prominent in the road ditch immediately beneath the post on which the owl was perched. It appeared to have been an old badger den in the embankment on the field side of the road ditch. This site surprised me a bit, as there was little suitable owl habitat in the immediate vicinity, save for the ditch itself. However, I have observed similar roadside owl nests in the eastern Dakotas, so such an occurrence is not unprecedented.

*Birds in Iowa* (Kent and Dinsmore, 1996) indicates previous observations of Burrowing Owls in Lyon County, but no nest records. Our confirmation of a local nest expands the owl's nesting range in northwestern Iowa to all counties bordering the Big Sioux and upper Missouri rivers. Burrowing Owls normally range throughout the western half of the United States and probably once were relatively common in the prairies of northwestern Iowa. Although apparently declining in eastern portions of their range, the species still shows up every few years somewhere in western Iowa.

*1223 Dement Street, Larchwood, IA 51241*

## SMITH'S LONGSPURS IN KOSSUTH COUNTY, 1998

MATTHEW C. KENNE

Smith's Longspurs were found in Kossuth County in October 1998, the first documented sighting of their fall migration in Iowa in more than 70 years. Described as rare migrants in western Minnesota and rare spring migrants in Iowa, Smith's Longspurs are also erratic, secretive, and frequent habitat that usually offers little to entice birders in mid-April and mid-October. I hope my encounters reported here encourage others to widen their search for Smith's Longspurs, enjoying the thrill of discovery while giving us a more accurate measure of their occurrence in the state. For me, Smith's Longspurs are diamonds in the rough, and well worth the effort.



Maynard Reece Waterfowl Production Area consists of 300 acres of gently rolling former cropland dotted with restored wetland basins. Half of the area was planted in native grasses in 1997, but in the spring of 1998, the other half was still soybean stubble. Recalling their regular locations in Johnson and Louisa counties, the area seemed like great habitat for Smith's Longspurs. I searched the area several times in early April for Smith's, but without success. On 24 April, when I checked for shorebirds, I could see swirling flocks of small birds over a distant rise. I was eventually able to stalk into the middle of about 100 Smith's Longspurs as they chased each other around. When chasing, they often gave a buzzy call note I'd not heard before in addition to the regular "tic-tic-tic" in flight. The molt appeared complete by the end of April, with the black-and-white head pattern of breeding plumage males visible on some birds.

By the fall of 1998, the habitat at Maynard Reece W.P.A. had changed somewhat but still looked very promising. Newly planted native grasses had one season of growth and the widespread pigweed had been mowed, sprayed, and mowed again, leaving sparse ankle-high cover. As I stopped to check shorebirds on 7 October, the possibility of finding Smith's Longspurs was on my mind. It was a couple of weeks early, but there had been a report from the Twin Cities earlier in the week. I flushed several American Pipits and many Savannah Sparrows around the pools, but was still surprised when a Smith's Longspur flew up, calling repeatedly. It circled around

showing white sides to the tail and plain buffy tan from throat to undertail without the bunched streaking seen on the upper chest of the pipits. It didn't have the whitish belly or chestnut on the upperwing that Lapland Longspurs show' or give the "tew" notes that are usually interspersed with the "tics" of Lapland Longspurs. It was joined by a second Smith's Longspur when flushed again, both birds giving me excellent views, but they flew away when flushed a third time. When I passed through this part of Maynard Reece an hour later, a Smith's Longspur jumped up only 50 yards from the spot of my earlier contact.

Subsequent visits on 11, 15, and 18 October yielded more Savannah Sparrows, more American Pipits, and 60 Lapland Longspurs, but no Smith's Longspurs.

When I arrived at Maynard Reece at 7:45 a.m. on 25 October, I immediately saw two groups of duck hunters on the north and south sides of the largest water area. As I considered my options, a large flock of longspurs passed beside me into a light south wind, flying low. They skirted the east edge of the water area, flew over a small hill, and continued southeast. More birds closely followed, and I saw many stopping for a sip of water. A looping route away from the hunters finally brought me to the hill in the flight path of the streaming longspurs. This was the same spot from which I'd watched the longspurs back in April! By the time the flight slowed and I left at 9:15, an (under) estimated 1,000-2,000 longspurs passed over this hill, including close to (but probably more than) 100 Smith's.

Most Smith's Longspurs were picked out as small groups (1-10) doubled back against or across the grain of the main flight. Examination of these groups usually revealed the plain buffy undersides and white shoulder patches of Smith's Longspurs. The white wing coverts were particularly striking in the morning sun, especially as they had not been evident to me under cloudy conditions on 7 October. Another difference noted this time was how strongly the dark malar stripe of the Lapland Longspurs showed on passing birds as compared to Smith's Longspur. The difference in calls could also be appreciated as the rest of the longspurs continued flying away. The Smith's "tic-tic-tic" calls were slower, and deeper or lower in pitch, and again I noticed the lack of "tew" notes given when compared to the Lapland Longspurs.

Smith's Longspurs often landed on the ground singly or in small groups, while the Lapland Longspurs seemed intent on covering distance. I walked around the area, trying to see Smith's on the ground, but they proved to be frustratingly difficult to spot before they took flight 10-30 feet ahead of me. The Smith's Longspur I was best able to study was a first-winter bird with extensive but muted streaking covering the whole chest. I only flushed two groups of 20 or so Laplands all morning as the two species didn't seem to mix much in the air or on the ground. I spent 20 minutes crouched at the edge of the water area scanning flocks of Lapland Longspurs as they swirled down to land and take a quick sip of water before continuing on, but not a single Smith's Longspur was seen to stop for a drink. Even though return trips to this area found only 2 American Pipits on October 28, 2 Savannah Sparrows on November 4, and no longspurs, I'll be back. The key to finding Smith's Longspurs in Iowa seems to be repeated coverage of good habitat. Walk a likely area, and then walk it another day. Then go back and walk it still another day. Cross your fingers and enjoy the exercise, you may even find diamonds!

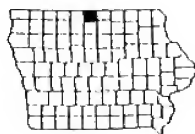
*709 N. Phillips, Algona, Iowa 50511*



# GLOSSY IBIS AT THORPE PARK, WINNEBAGO COUNTY

GIAN DODICI

On 26 May 1998 I was driving through Thorpe Park when I noticed an unusual-shaped bird feeding near three Canada Geese. As I stopped my vehicle, I quickly realized, because of the bird's general shape and distinctly decurved bill, that the bird was an ibis. As soon as I viewed the bird through my binoculars I suspected that it might be a Glossy Ibis rather than the more common, in Iowa, White-faced Ibis. The ibis was in alternate plumage, and the glossy purplish color was stunning in the bright sunlight. The long bill was a dirty white color and lacked any of the red coloration evident in White-faced Ibis. The legs were also a dirty white color with slightly darker joints. The bird's face had a bluish-white border above and below the eyes to the bill, white extended up and over the top of the base of the bill, but did not extend behind the eye nor did it extend under the chin. I observed the bird for about 15 minutes at less than 50 yards with a 20-50 power scope and binoculars before going to the naturalist's office. Lisa Ralls, the Thorpe Park naturalist, and I returned to the area where I had seen the ibis, and we both watched the bird for 15 minutes as it fed and preened in a small area. I returned to the area 30 minutes later with a 500 mm camera lens and managed to take about 12 pictures before I ran out of film! In all, I observed the Glossy Ibis for about 40 minutes in bright sunlight in the middle of the day. I returned to the area later that evening, with Lisa Hemesath and Andy Clement, and again the next day with Andy Clement but we were unable to relocate the bird. Bruce Davis told me later that he had seen an ibis at Myre Slough some time in May, so it is possible that the bird was in the area for some time. Glossy Ibis are rare in Iowa; this is the third record, all in May. The first record is from Kossuth County in May 1992 (Kenne, *Iowa Bird Life* 64:83-84) and the second is from Fremont County in May 1995 (Kent, Fuller, and Tetrault), *Iowa Bird Life* (65:87-88).



*Department of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames, IA 50011*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I wanted to share with the readers of *Iowa Bird Life* a technique I use to locate Winter Wrens. Long ago, I learned I could get resident Carolina Wrens to respond to a tape of their song. I did this along the bluffs near the Mississippi River north of Clinton, taking care to do this only in winter so I didn't disturb spring territories.

Several years ago, I became enchanted with the Winter Wren that inhabits these bluffs in the winter months. I tried playing recordings of its song and had success. As late as November, the Winter Wren would burst into song when a tape of its song was played. In the cold months of December and January, they will not sing but might come around scolding with a variety of call notes. In early spring, the male wrens are singing on their own.

*Paul Van Nieuwenhuysse, 1355 Harrison Drive, Clinton, IA 52732-6161*

# I.O.U. BUSINESS

## SPRING BUSINESS MEETING

*Centerville, 1 May 1999, 3:55-4:55 p.m.*

Mark Proescholdt, presiding; Mary Kuhlman, acting secretary

Moved (Zaletel, seconded by Ayres) to approve the minutes of the fall business meeting held 12 September 1998. Motion carried.

The treasurer's report was distributed showing a balance of \$43,705.90.

### Committee Reports

Records: Tom Kent reported that the 1998 records are complete. Ann Johnson will be the new Records Committee Secretary. Kent has been Secretary since 1980 and will now become a committee member in 2000. The Iowa State University library will archive all Records Committee materials for historical preservation.

Membership: Maridel Jackson reported that the new membership brochures will be printed soon showing the current dues structure and correct mailing address. All old brochures should be destroyed.

Library-Historical: Hank Zaletel reported that he continues to archive materials at the Iowa State University library.

Birdline: No report.

Technology Committee: Ann Johnson reported that the organization has a new web page. The address is [www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org). The I.O.U. e-mail address is [iowabirds@iowabirds.org](mailto:iowabirds@iowabirds.org). The committee welcomes ideas and new members.

Educational Booklet: Linda Zaletel reported that the resource trunks for the middle school migratory bird curriculum are complete. I.O.U. provided \$1,500 for this project. Each area education agency will receive one. Inservice for teachers will be held in June.

Upcoming meetings: Darleen Ayres reported that the fall 1999 meeting will be held in Ottumwa on 9-12 September in conjunction with the Inland Bird Banding Association and the Association of Field Ornithologists.

A host group is needed for the spring 2000 meeting.

### Old Business

Mark Proescholdt reported on the March Board of Directors meeting.

### New Business

Display: Linda Zaletel has completed the new I.O.U. display. It can be shipped via UPS for use around the state.

Tom Kent was nominated (Dinsmore, seconded by Hollis) for honorary membership in the I.O.U. Motion carried.

Election of Officers: The following were elected to two-year terms: Mark Proescholdt, president; Tom Johnson, vice president; Phil Walsh, Maridel Jackson, and Curt Nelson for Board of Directors.

Proescholdt reappointed the ad hoc Technology Committee of Ann Johnson (chair), Dixie Overton, and Jim Scheib.

### Announcements

Proescholdt thanked Ann Johnson for her two terms as vice president. He also announced the deaths of several long-time I.O.U. members. Hank Zaletel will write tributes on John Osness and Jim Rod for *Iowa Bird Life*.

Larry Stone announced that a Mississippi River birding trail is being mapped. He provided information to those who were interested in helping with this project.

Jim Dinsmore announced that volunteers are needed for several breeding bird survey routes in the state.

Rick Hollis announced that he is collecting information about bird blinds in Iowa. He also suggested that a list of cell phone numbers be compiled.

Proescholdt thanked the Rathbun Bird Club for hosting the meeting.

Moved (Jackson, seconded by Hollis) to adjourn.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Centerville, 1 May 1999, 4:56-5:00 p.m.

Mark Proescholdt, presiding

Present: Dan Dorrance, Rita Goranson, Maridel Jackson, Tom Johnson, Mark Proescholdt

The board approved spending up to \$190 for a booth at an October 1999 meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science. Linda Zaletel will represent the I.O.U. meeting at this meeting and will have the I.O.U. display there. This is a one-day workshop for teachers from throughout Iowa.

### TREASURERS REPORT--1998, RITA GORANSON, TREASURER

#### STATEMENT OF SUPPORT, REVENUES, AND EXPENSES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 1998

##### SUPPORT AND REVENUES

###### SUPPORT (Contributions and Gifts)

Breeding Bird Atlas	
Adopt-A-Book Fund	260.00
Iowa Bird Line	284.00
Endowment Fund	26.00
Iowa Bird Life	35.00
Unspecified Contributions	304.00
Des Moines Audubon (speaker)	750.00
Total Contributions and Gifts	\$1,659.00

###### REVENUES (Members, actual deposits for 1998 year)

###### Membership/Subscriptions

Regular Member	7,373.50
First Family Member	715.00
Second Family Member	281.00
Third+ Member	8.00
Life Member	925.00
Institutional Subscribers	715.00
Total Membership Revenue (see Note 1)	\$10,017.50

###### Sales

I.O.U. Materials	1,147.07
Education Books	985.50
Total Sales Revenue	\$2,132.57

###### Interest Income

Checking Account	14.51
Total Interest Income	\$14.51

TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES \$13,823.58

##### EXPENSES

###### Publications Committee

Iowa Bird Life	3,946.20
I.O.U. News	1,727.74
Education Books	2,076.61
Total Publications Committee	\$7,750.55
Records Committee	283.57

Membership Committee	437.13	
President	13.88	
Treasurer	10.71	
Total, other committees and officers		\$745.29
Meeting expenses		
Spring 1997	111.00	
Spring 1998	485.00	
Fall 1998 (see Note 2)	1,075.00	
Total, meeting expenses		\$1,671.00
Iowa Bird Line	225.82	
Data analysis, bird feeder project	1,250.00	
I.O.U. Materials		
I.O.U. hats	2,294.09	
I.O.U. t-shirts	403.91	
Bank service charges	81.25	
Total Other Organization Expenses		\$4,255.07
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$14,421.91

EXCESS EXPENSES OVER SUPPORT AND REVENUES \$598.33

Note 1. Membership revenue recorded in 1998 includes dues actually paid in FY 1998.

Note 2. This expense was substantially offset by a donation from the Des Moines Audubon Society for \$750.

#### BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PERIOD 1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 1998.

##### CURRENT ASSETS

Cash in bank (Note 1)	\$10,824.62	
Cash in bank, (Note 2)	412.77	
Certif. of Deposit #1 (Note 3)	25,000.00	
Certif. of Deposit #2 (Note 4)	2,468.51	
Certif. of Deposit #3 (Note 5)	2,500.00	
Certif. of Deposit #4 (Note 6)	2,500.00	
Total Current Assets, 31 Dec. 1997		\$43,705.90

##### FUND BALANCE BREAKDOWN

Birdathon	1,512.05	
Book Royalties	2,865.34	
Endowment Fund	4,941.39	
Project Fund	390.71	
Total Endowment Fund		\$9,709.49
Life Memberships	9,677.50	
Birdline Fund	368.18	
Meeting Reimbursement Fund	630.29	
Adopt-A-Book Fund	2,246.00	
Total of Specific Funds		\$22,631.46
General Operating Fund		\$21,074.44
Total Fund Balance, 31 December 1998		\$43,705.90

- Note 1. NationsBank, Mason City, Iowa (checking account)  
Note 2. First National Bank, Ames, Iowa (IBL account).  
Note 3. Thirty-six month Certificate of Deposit, maturing 30 June 2001.  
Note 4. Twelve-month Certificate of Deposit, maturing 30 June 1999.  
Note 5. Twenty-four month Certificate of Deposit, maturing 30 June 2000.  
Note 6. 273-day Certificate of Deposit, maturing 30 March 1999.

## BOOK REVIEWS

**A Field Guide to Warblers of North America** by Jon Dunn and Kimball Garrett. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1997. 656 pp., 32 color plates, many photographs, softbound, \$20, hardbound, \$30. It often takes just one look, perhaps of a spring male American Redstart, to convert a casual birder into a warbler aficionado. From there, learning to identify Iowa's 36 regular warbler species is a pretty straightforward, at least until fall arrives. When they return, wearing different, often drab, and almost always confusing plumages, the challenges of identification escalate. Many birders attack the problem by buying general bird guides, and these books certainly offer adequate identification information. When, however, your interest in warblers progresses from affection to addiction, there is now a cure.

*Warblers* is an exhaustive identification guide/reference volume that consumes over 600 pages in the treatment of its 60 species; all Parulidae of the United States and Canada including the presumably extinct Bachman's Warbler, and several Mexican species that are represented by a handful of U.S. appearances. Each account includes an introductory summary, followed by subsections on Description, Similar Species, behavior, voice, Habitat, Distribution, Status and Conservation, Subspecies, Taxonomic Relationships, Plumages and Molts, and References. In the case of Yellow Warbler, this takes 22 pages; even the obscure Colima Warbler generates five. The half-page range maps are remarkably detailed. It is evident that meticulous effort was put into assimilating information from Breeding Bird Atlas projects and *Field Notes/American Birds*. Illustrations include one or more photos in the text section and a series of plates in the front of the book. The plates, by Thomas R. Schultz and Cindy House, are of the classic Roger Tory Peterson style--austere yet elegant--and, continuing a good idea, feature Peterson's trademark pointers. Like the text, the illustrations are thorough. A few species have illustrations showing four or five plumages, most have seven or eight, and the Yellow-rumped group is accorded fully 17. Unique and invaluable are the two pages of plates showing the undertail of most species. Since this is the primary view most of us get of warblers, this gives us another tool in cracking tough identification cases.

I decided to spot check the book's completeness by posing a few of my favorite warbler questions. Does it recognize that Northern Parula sometimes sings a song similar to the Cerulean, and may actually have learned the wrong song from a nearby Cerulean male? (It's in there). Does it note that Crescent-chested Warbler can be mistaken Tropical Parula? (Yes). Does its range map show that the Yellow-throated Warbler follows the Des Moines River into central Iowa? (see page 328). Does it report that MacGillivray's Warbler is a vagrant to the Midwest, as evidenced by Iowa's record? (They have it). After a few more of these futile exercises, it became evident that I was seriously under equipped to find lapses in this volume.

There are two reasons to buy this extraordinary book, and its potential for use as a field guide is not one of them. As a field guide, it is probably too bulky and too

limited in scope to replace some of the other favorites. The first reason to buy it is that it sets a new standard for bird family books, and is worth owning and examining for that reason alone. The second reason is that it is an unparalleled treatise on what is probably America's favorite family of birds. When I prepared the species accounts for the *Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas*, I accumulated a stack of books on warblers, from newer volumes to old classics. While *Warblers* may not have the gently crafted prose of Harrison's *Wood Warblers' World* or Griscom and Sprunt's *The Warblers of America*, it makes up that lack by providing as much information, and more up-to-date information, than the whole stack combined. Even the introductory pages, often a tedious necessity in other books, are worth an evening's study.--Robert Cecil, 1315 41st Street, Des Moines, IA 50311

**New World Blackbirds: The Icterids** by Alvaro Jaramillo and Peter Burke. Princeton University Press, Princeton. 1996. 431 pp., 39 colored plates, hardbound, \$49.50. The book is a comprehensive guide to the 103 members of the family Icteridae, also known as the icterids or troupials. The book is meant to be a resource, not a field guide or handbook. Its format is similar to other identification guides such as *Waterfowl: An identification guide to the ducks, geese, and swans of the world* by Steve Madge and Hilary Burn; or *Seabirds: An identification guide* by Peter Harrison. The book contains 39 detailed plates which depict all of the species and subspecies and age types. The book also has more than 100 color range maps in the format mentioned above. The text includes the following about each species: identification, voice, descriptions of all age types, geographic variation, habitat, behavior, nesting, distribution and status, movements, molt, measurements, notes, and references. Frequently in the text there are black-and-white illustrations which aid in identification

The book is one that any university ornithological library should have. Anyone who has a library of identification guides, or a passion for field birding in the Americas from Alaska to Cape Horn, including the Caribbean, should add this book to their library.--Mary Lou Petersen, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

## FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

Changes in bird ranges in Iowa was the topic of the lead article in the June 1949 issue of *Iowa Bird Life*. Author Charles Stewart of New Albin briefly described recent range changes of 14 Iowa species. Only three involved east-west expansions (Western Kingbird moving east, Eastern Meadowlark moving west in southern Iowa, and Western Meadowlark moving east). He noted that Pileated Woodpecker numbers were down, the opposite of its current trend in Iowa. The other ten species were all expanding their range to the north. Currently of those ten, seven (Great Egret, Acadian Flycatcher, Tufted Titmouse, Carolina Wren, Blue-winged Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, and Northern Cardinal) have continued that trend or have held their own and three (Red-shouldered Hawk, Northern Mockingbird, Yellow-breasted Chat) have declined in numbers in the past 50 years. Such articles, although no hard data are presented, still provide a valuable baseline for future comparisons on bird population changes.--ed.





The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

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## EDITORIAL STAFF

James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (e-mail: oldcoot@iastate.edu)  
Robert Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311  
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014  
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia St., Fort Collins, CO 80521  
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246  
Ann Barker, Spring Bird Count Editor, 25368 250th St., Princeton, IA 52768-9720

## SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$20 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$20); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$20 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$500 as single payment or \$125 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Curt Nelson or Marty Pauley, 22675 Spruce Ave., Mason City, IA 50401 (e-mail: MPAuley@jumpgate.net).

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

## OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (2001), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148  
Tom Johnson, Vice-President (2001), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211  
Jane Clark, Secretary (2000), 9871 Lincoln Avenue, Clive, IA 50325  
Rita Goranson, Treasurer (2000), 115 Lakeview Drive, Mason City, IA 50401  
Other members of the Board of Directors: Dan Dorrance (2000), Maridel Jackson (2001), Curt Nelson (2001), James Scheib (2000), and Phil Walsh (2001).

## STANDING COMMITTEES

*Publications:* Harold White (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg  
*Records:* Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Robert I. Cecil, Chris Edwards, James L. Fuller, Matthew C. Kenne, W. Ross Silcock, and James Sinclair.  
*Membership:* Barb Bettis, Carol Berrier, Maridel Jackson, and Rita Goranson.  
*Library/Historical:* Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Spieker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

9-12 September 1999, Ottumwa

### FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

- \*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (Robert Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311)
- \*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)
- \*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)
- \*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

\*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: Stephen J. Dinsmore, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

### IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. HOMEPAGE: <http://storm.simpson.edu/~birding/>

### I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

### MATERIALS AVAILABLE

Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available through the editorial office. For order form, send self-addressed envelope to: Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014.

Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1996 Edition: 25 for \$8.00, postpaid and other I.O.U. materials are available from Maridel Jackson, 410 SW Westview Dr., Ankeny, IA 50021-2727. Also available at annual meetings.

### REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

### ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Marty Pauley, 22675 Spruce Ave., Mason City, IA 50401

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